Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

Brought to you by WingtipCafe.com
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Proof-read by: Cyber_1
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MAKIMURA SATORU

Before, as I was writing *Real Clothes*, I set my mind on, "systematically working my way through all the clothes I want to wear! Then draw what I think of trying them on!" But actually, everyone is already buying and wearing clothes that make me go, "!?" From Prada to Uniqlo. Without getting down the line, my closet is still full to bursting. My childhood dream of, "wearing gorgeous dresses" has come true.

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リアル・クローズ

YOU QUEEN'S COMICS

Real Clothes リアル・クローズ 10

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集英社

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Miki-sama heads to a rival foreign chain!
And then Niko gets married and quits!
A shaken Team Tabuchi goes on the offense!?

Niko has been seeing Tabuchi's ex-girlfriend, Yukino. He says he's getting married and then going to Italy to help his mother's hotel... ! Having lost a significant ally, Kinue's Team Tabuchi faces off against H&H, which has Madame Jinbo Miki. But this is no time to dither! Is this the time to go on the offense...!?

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QUEEN S COMICS

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NIKO AND YUKINO-SAN ARE
SEEING EACH OTHER?!

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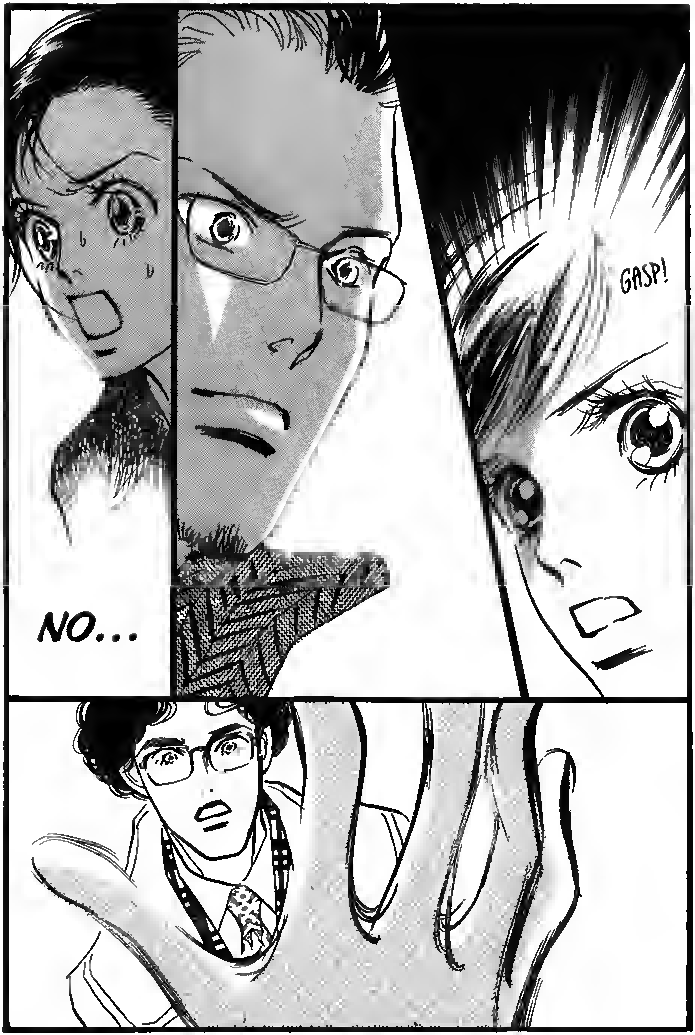
Chapter 70

YOU, OVER THERE!
PLEASE DON'T COME TO A STOP—
I LIKE SELFISH WOMEN IN RED LINGERIE.
SO THAT WAS ABOUT YUKINO...


GASP!
NO...

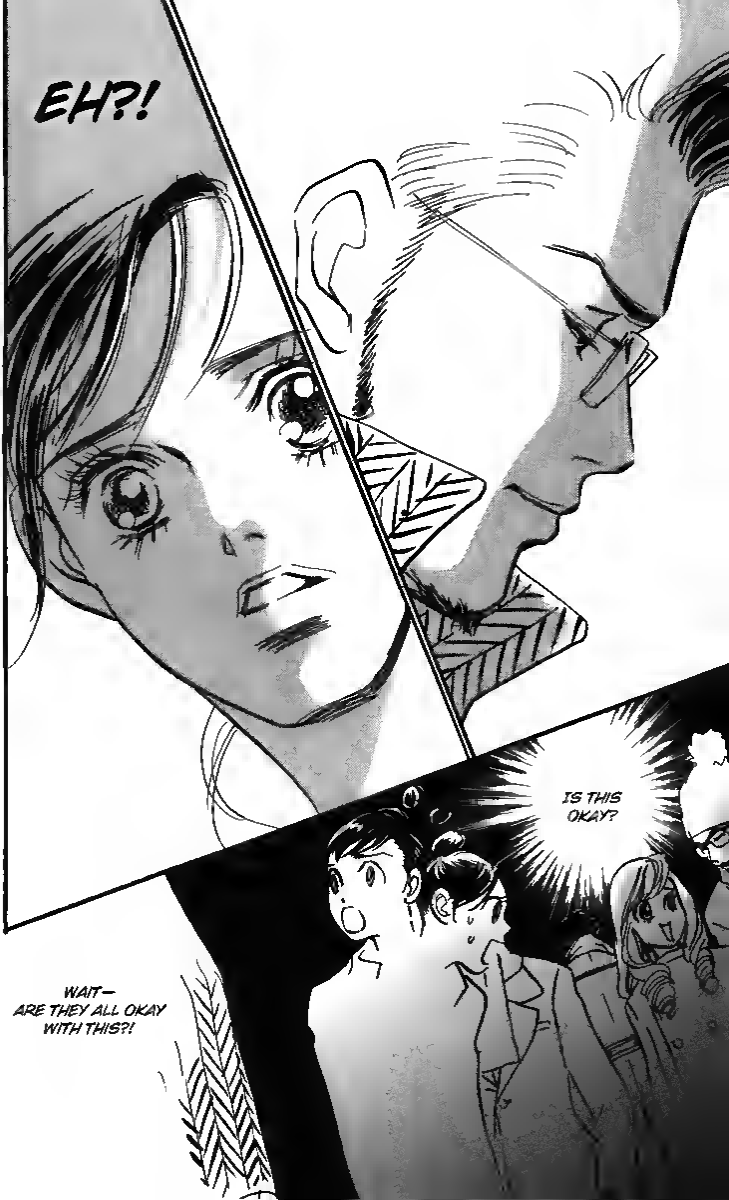
GRAB!
POP!
DON'T STOP WALKING—!
I GOT IT FROM A CUSTOMER
OH...
SHE GOT THAT FROM NIKO.

GASP!
NO...!

SMACK!
POP!
DON'T STOP WALKING—!
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
IS THAT SO?
SHE SEEMED HAPPY.
B-BMP!

B-BMP!
B-BMP!

MERRY CHRISTMAS.
GLORIOUS WAS HIS BIRTH.


EH?!
IS THIS OKAY?
WAIT— ARE THEY ALL OKAY WITH THIS?!

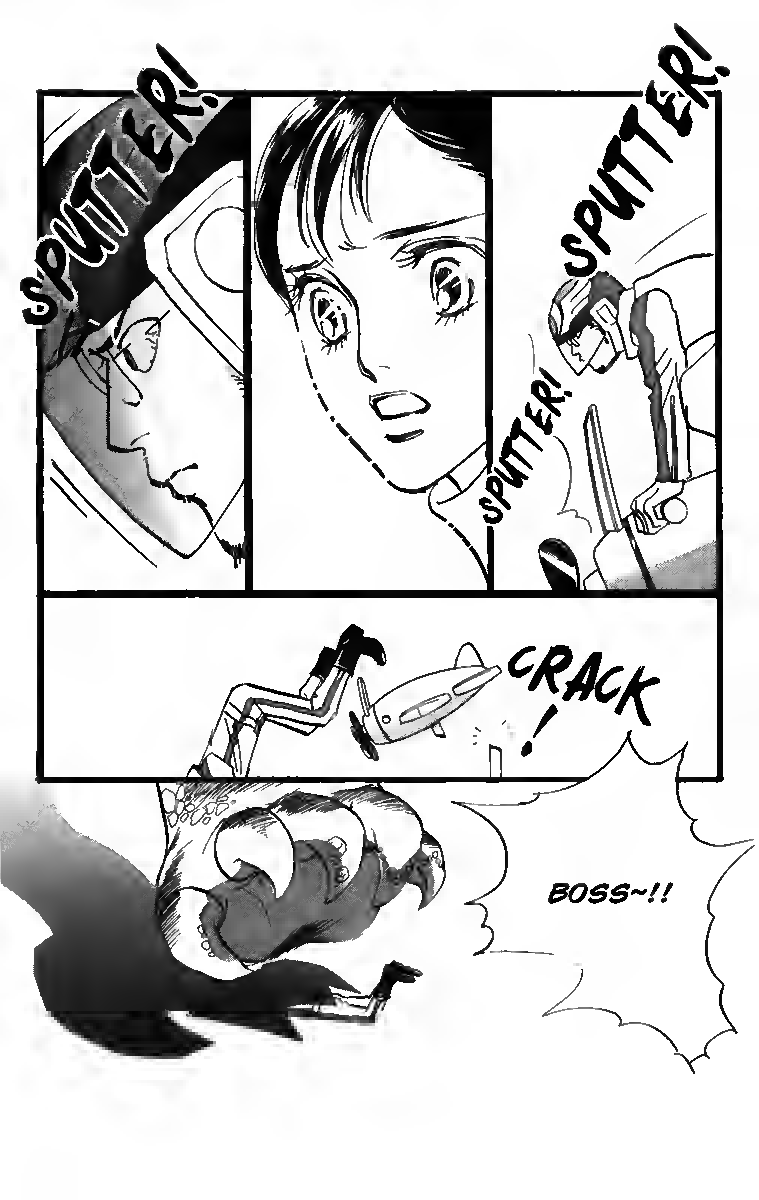
IS IT BECAUSE I'M STILL A KID? AND YOU'RE ALL ADULTS?!
HUH?! I DON'T GET IT.
IT'S HIS EX, AFTER ALL. IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY TWO-TIMING GOING ON. THERE ISN'T REALLY A PROBLEM...
IF HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND IS WITH NIKO, OF ALL PEOPLE,
WITH HIS OWN #1 SUBORDINATE—
MAYBE IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...
SO IT'S FINE...?

HUH?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HELLO, BOSS?!
SH... SHI... SHIT!!
WHERE ARE YOU NOW? TO THE RIGHT? LEFT?
I— I'M GOING HOME.

WO
AH!!
I KNEW HE'D BE HURT~?!
.....
—IS THIS ALRIGHT?!
OTSUKARE-SAMA!!

BOOM...
BOOM
ECHIZEN
ECHIZE

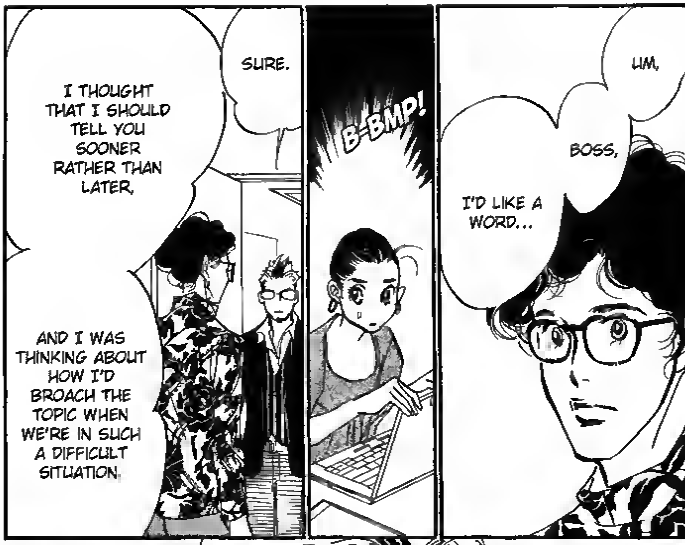
SORTIE!!
BOSS! HURRY!
LA
ND!

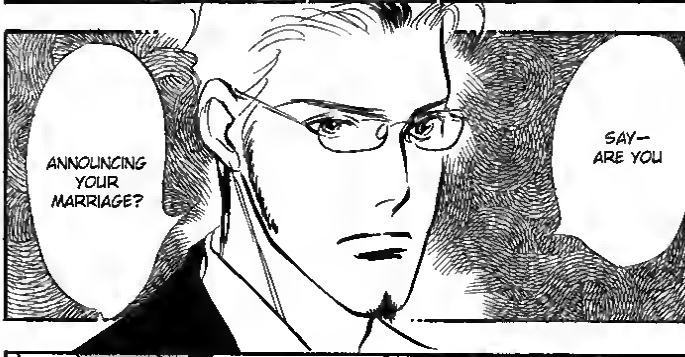

SPUTTER!
SPUTTER!
SPUTTER!
CRACK!
BOSS~!!

GASP!
HAH
HAH
HAH
BOOM!
BOOM!
SPLAT!
STOMP!

SIGHHH...
THE TWO OF THEM ARE MATURE ADULTS, AFTER ALL.
IT'S OKAY. WE'RE ALL A TEAM.
WORK IS WORK. OUR PRIVATE AFFECTIONS ARE SEPARATE.

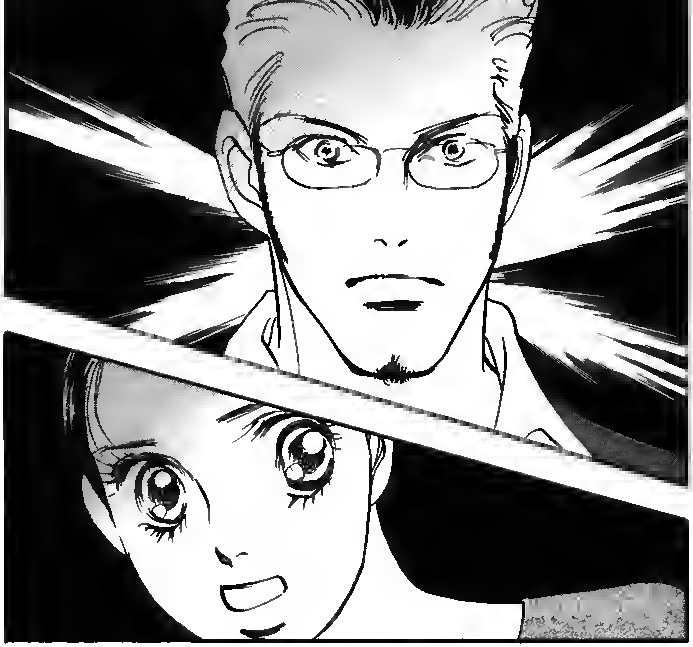
I'M GOING OUT THERE LIKE AN ADULT TOO!!
OUR NEXT MEETING FOR LIMITED-TIME ITEMS WILL BE HELD RIGHT AFTER THE NEW YEAR.
PLEASE PUT A LOT OF PRESSURE ON EACH OF OUR BRAND REPRESENTATIVES.
CROWD
CROWD
OTSUKARE-SAMA—
ECHIZENYA

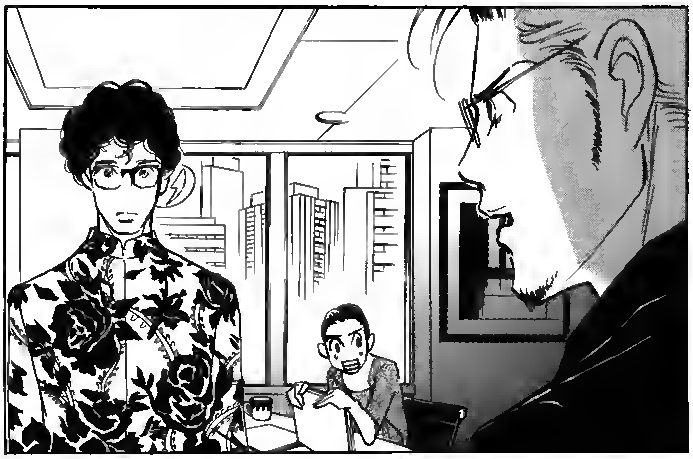

UM,
BOSS,
I'D LIKE A WORD...
B-BMP!
SURE.
I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD TELL YOU SOONER RATHER THAN LATER,
AND I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW I'D BROACH THE TOPIC WHEN WE'RE IN SUCH A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

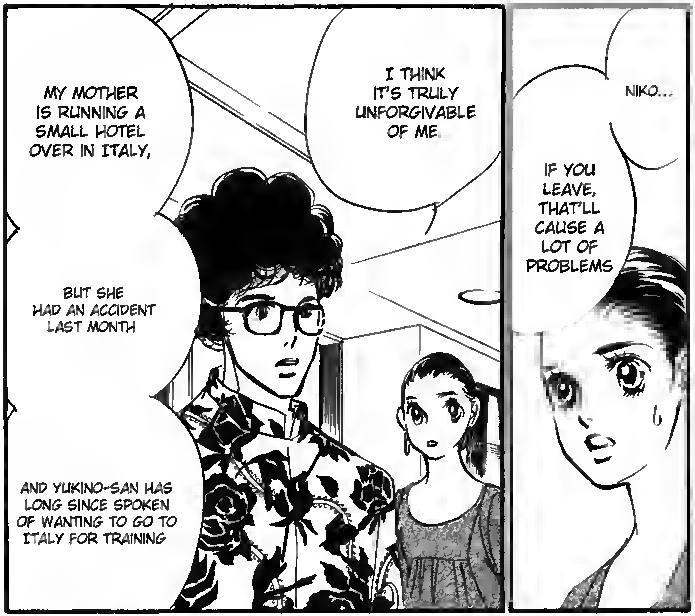

SAY— ARE YOU
ANNOUNCING YOUR MARRIAGE?

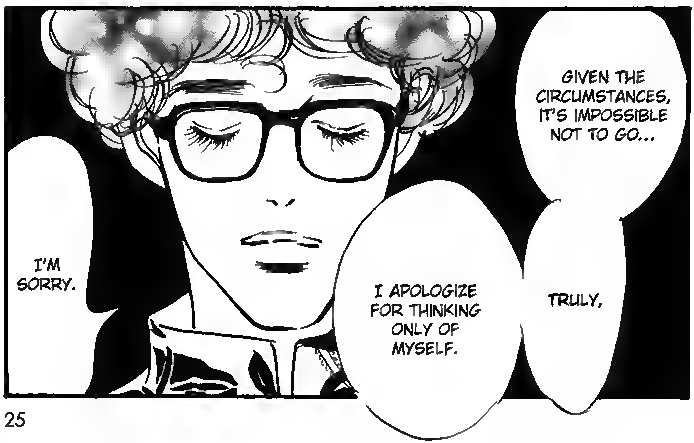
YES.
Not shy at all
HA!

THEY. ARE. SO. MATURE!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
CONGRATS!
—ALSO,
WE'LL CELEBRATE IN STYLE!!
I'VE DECIDED TO QUIT THIS JOB SO THE TWO OF US CAN MOVE TO ITALY.



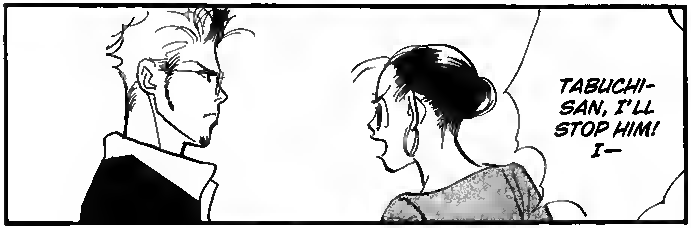


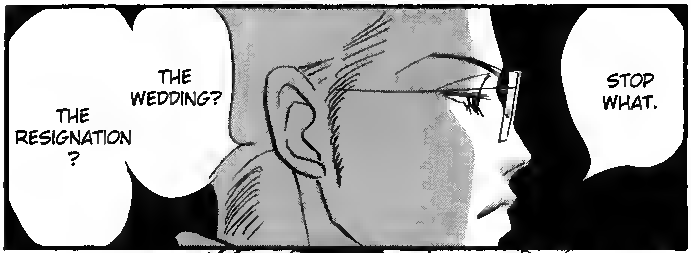

MY MOTHER IS RUNNING A SMALL HOTEL OVER IN ITALY,
BUT SHE HAD AN ACCIDENT LAST MONTH
AND YUKINO-SAN HAS LONG SINCE SPOKEN OF WANTING TO GO TO ITALY FOR TRAINING
I THINK IT'S TRULY UNFORGIVABLE OF ME.
NIKO...
IF YOU LEAVE, THAT'LL CAUSE A LOT OF PROBLEMS

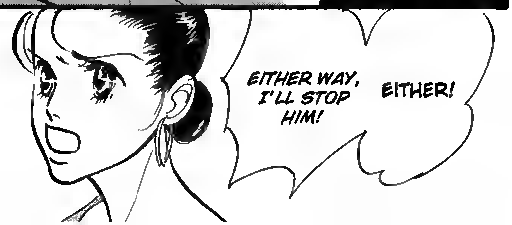

I'M SORRY.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF.
TRULY,
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO GO...

I'LL LEAVE AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH.
Notice
BOW...

CLICK!
NIKO!


TABUCHI-SAN, I'LL STOP HIM! I—


THE RESIGNATION ?
THE WEDDING?
STOP WHAT.


EITHER WAY, I'LL STOP HIM!
EITHER!

IT'S POINTLESS.

NOW SEE HERE PUTTING UP A FRONT LIKE THAT MAY BE WHAT *YOU* HAVE DECIDED ON,
EVEN IF IT IS!
BUT YOU'LL BE THE ONE MOST TROUBLED BY THIS!

I'M NOT PROUD OF IT, BUT I'M NOT CLEVER LIKE NIKO IS.
I CAN'T MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS OR PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS LIKE NIKO
I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T SUPPORT YOU THE WAY NIKO DOES— IN THIS, I AM CONFIDENT!
TABUCHI-SAN, PLEASE DISSUADE HIM FROM LEAVING. EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO UP HIS SALARY!
NIKO IS ONE OF THE MOST INDISPENSABLE PEOPLE AT ECHIZENYA!!

IF HE'S REALLY GOING TO ITALY FOR THE HOTEL BUSINESS, THAT'S FINE,
BUT HE MAY ALSO BE PULLING OUT BECAUSE OF H&H.
GO WARN SECURITY.
SLAP!

WOULD NIKO, WHO LOVES YOU SO MUCH,
EVER IN A MILLION YEARS, BE ABLE TO DO THAT?!!

WE'RE A TEAM. LET'S SHARE OUR FRUSTRATIONS AND JOY.
NIKO!
WHERE'S NIKO?!
THE SALES FLOOR!
NIKO!
...
THIS WILL WARM YOU UP!

◆ End of Chapter 70 ◆

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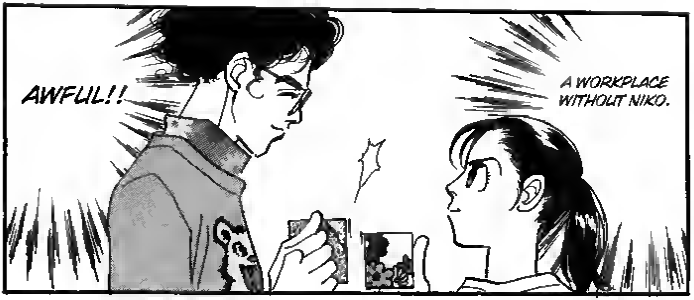
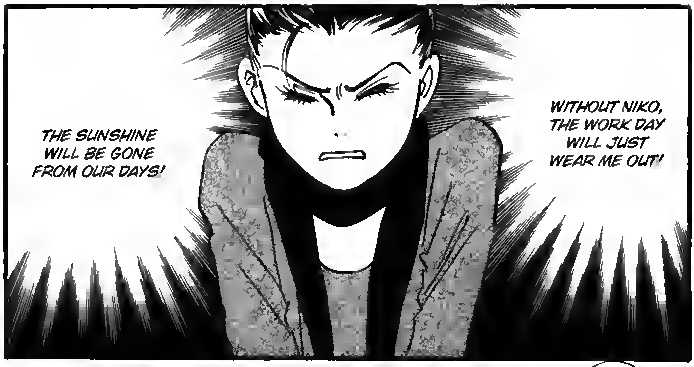
Chapter 71

HELLO
CHATTER
A BEER TO START—
CHATTER
HERE YA GO!
CHATTER
NO!!


A WORKPLACE WITHOUT NIKO.
AWFUL!!


THE SUNSHINE WILL BE GONE FROM OUR DAYS!
WITHOUT NIKO, THE WORK DAY WILL JUST WEAR ME OUT!

SLIDE

HAPPY SUNSHINE BOY
NIKO!
THANKS FOR WAITING~

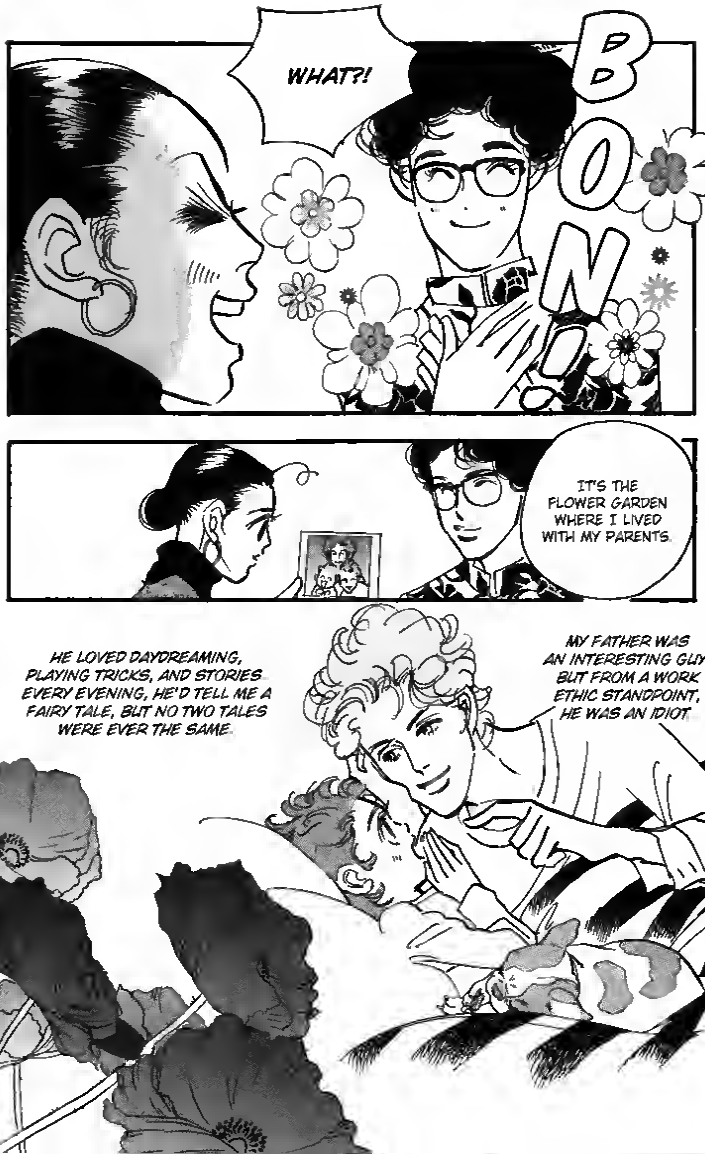
I TOOK IT FOR GRANTED EVERY DAY...!!
THIS THOUGHTFULNESS AND CONSIDERATION
Oden and ankake-tofu!
WHOA~ YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING YET?
SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR PRECIOUS FREE TIME, AMANO-SAN.
I'LL GO ASK FOR SOME SOUP TO WARM YOU UP FOR NOW, ASAP!
SET!
HERE YOU GO!
OH! THE HANPEN* LOOKS GOOD— LET'S SPLIT IT
MAKING YOU CRY IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BEAR.
YOU'LL SPOIL YOUR BEAUTY
THE CORNERS OF YOUR EYES WILL BURN FROM THE TEARS
HERE
UH-HUH

(*T/N Hanpen is a fish cake or other ground meat patty, often in the shape of a triangle.)

GEEZ.
AT A TIME WHEN THE DEPARTMENT IS SO BUSY...
I'M SORRY
ARE YOU TOTALLY SET ON THIS?
YES.
AH...
NIKO, YOU HAVE NO DOUBTS WHATSOEVER

BLUSH
HEH HEH HEH.
YEAH.
—WHICH BRINGS ME TO WHAT I WANT TO SAY—
LUCKY.
MEETING YUKINO-SAN HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE.
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING LEFT BEHIND BY YOU.
I END UP THINKING ABOUT HOW LONELY AND HATEFUL IT WILL BE.
BUT NOT AS MUCH AS—
I'M SO JEALOUS OF YOU!
THAT EVEN BEFORE I MET YUKINO,
I WAS VERY BLESSED

AMANO-SAN, WHERE IS YOUR PLACE?
.....!?
WHAT WORLD DOES YOUR SOUL LIVE IN?
...OH.
THE JOB...?
Umm~
WORK AND...
THE WORLD OF CLOTHES..? WAREHOUSE ORGANIZATION,
I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN A FLOWER GARDEN.


WHAT?!
BONO
IT'S THE FLOWER GARDEN WHERE I LIVED WITH MY PARENTS.
HE LOVED DAYDREAMING, PLAYING TRICKS, AND STORIES. EVERY EVENING, HE'D TELL ME A FAIRY TALE, BUT NO TWO TALES WERE EVER THE SAME.
MY FATHER WAS AN INTERESTING GUY, BUT FROM A WORK ETHIC STANDPOINT, HE WAS AN IDIOT.

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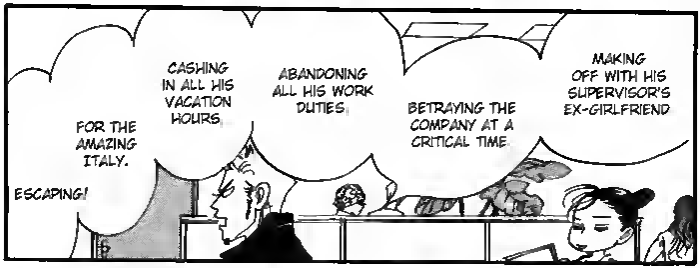
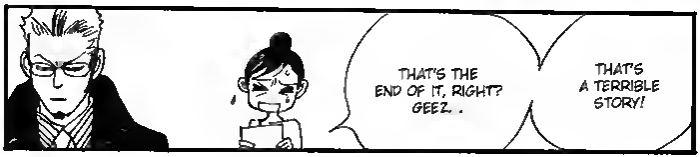
HOW LOVELY...
Boo—
HE ENCOURAGED MY MOTHER THROUGH LAUGHTER.
HE WAS SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT NONSTOP ABOUT WAYS TO MAKE MOTHER AND I SMILE.
I LOVE HIM
I WANT TO LIVE LIKE HE DID
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CREATES A FLOWER GARDEN ALL AROUND HIMSELF
HE ONLY THOUGHT OF HOW TO GIVE HAPPINESS TO OTHERS
MY FATHER
COULDN'T WALK DUE TO AN ACCIDENT ON A MOUNTAIN IN HIS YOUTH,
BUT HE WAS THE SUN.
Stop this instant!

THIS IS WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME.
I WANT THE PERSON I LOVE TO SMILE.
I WANT TO PROTECT THE PERSON I LOVE.
TO LIVE FOR WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT...
IS THE UNSHAKABLE FOCAL POINT FOR NIKO, MAKING HIM SO WONDERFUL.
FOR EXAMPLE, MIKI-SAMA IS THE MASTER OF THE WORLD OF BEAUTY.
SHE IS SOMEONE WHO PURSUES WHAT BEAUTY IS.
TABUCHI-SAN IS SOMEONE IN A BATTLEFIELD.
HE BATTLES HIS ENEMIES AS WELL AS HIS OWN COMPLEX.

AMANO-SAN,
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF TABUCHI-SAN
IT FEELS WEIRD.
TO BE JEALOUS OF NIKO.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

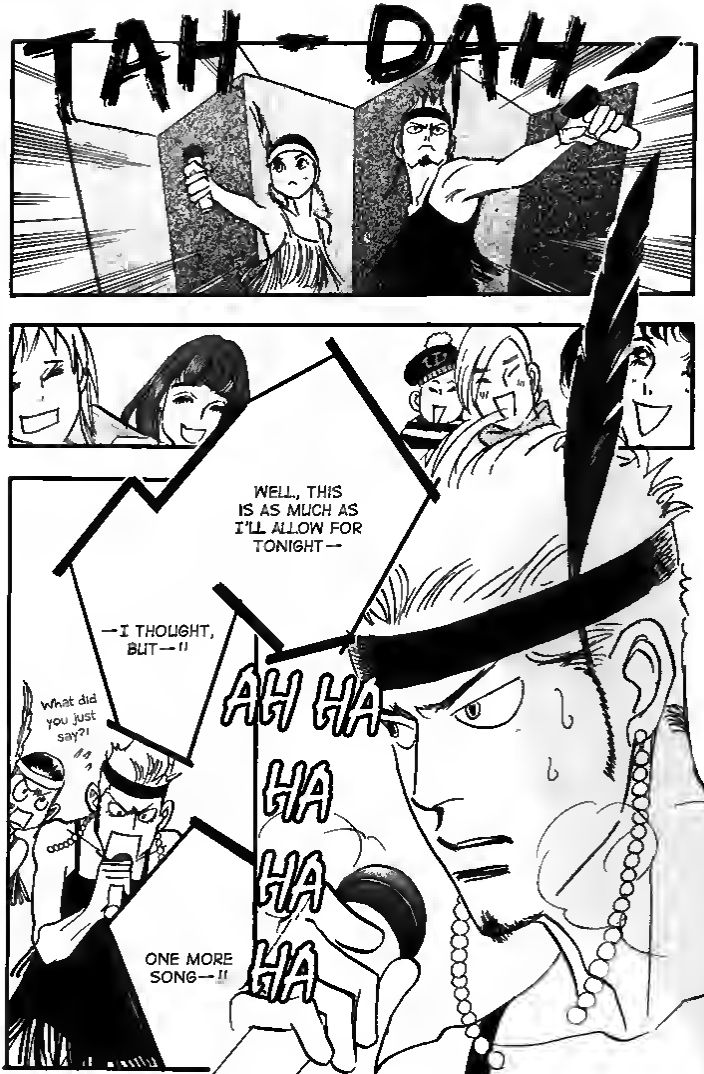
AMANO—!!
YOU'RE DOING THE CONTRACT THAT NIKO GOT WITH M.Y. COMPANY IN ITALY.
I'M HEADING TO PARIS BY MYSELF. WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO ABOUT THE LANGUAGE!
HA HA HA
IT'S YOUR MISFORTUNE YOU HAVE A TERRIBLE CO-WORKER.
"Terrible" ?
YES!


FOR THE AMAZING ITALY.
CASHING IN ALL HIS VACATION HOURS.
ABANDONING ALL HIS WORK DUTIES.
BETRAYING THE COMPANY AT A CRITICAL TIME.
MAKING OFF WITH HIS SUPERVISOR'S EX-GIRLFRIEND
ESCAPING!


THAT'S THE END OF IT, RIGHT? GEEZ. .
THAT'S A TERRIBLE STORY!

THE MAN AND WOMAN I REALLY, REEEALLY, REEEEEEALLLY KNOW WELL ARE GETTING MARRIED-- MEANING,
WHAT?
IT'S SO BEYOND UNDERSTANDING. IT'S DISGUSTING.
HMPH!
IT'S LIKE THE LOVE IS SO DEEP
HE'S CRAZY JEALOUS.
TWIST!
OH YEAH! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL SETTLE THE FAREWELL PARTY.
WHAT?!
DRILL THIS CHOREOGRAPHY INTO YOUR BODY!
EH?
CHA- CHA- CHA- CHA- CHA-
PINK... HUH?!
送別会
Goodbye Nikolin FAREWELL PARTY

Cha Ha Ha Ha Ha

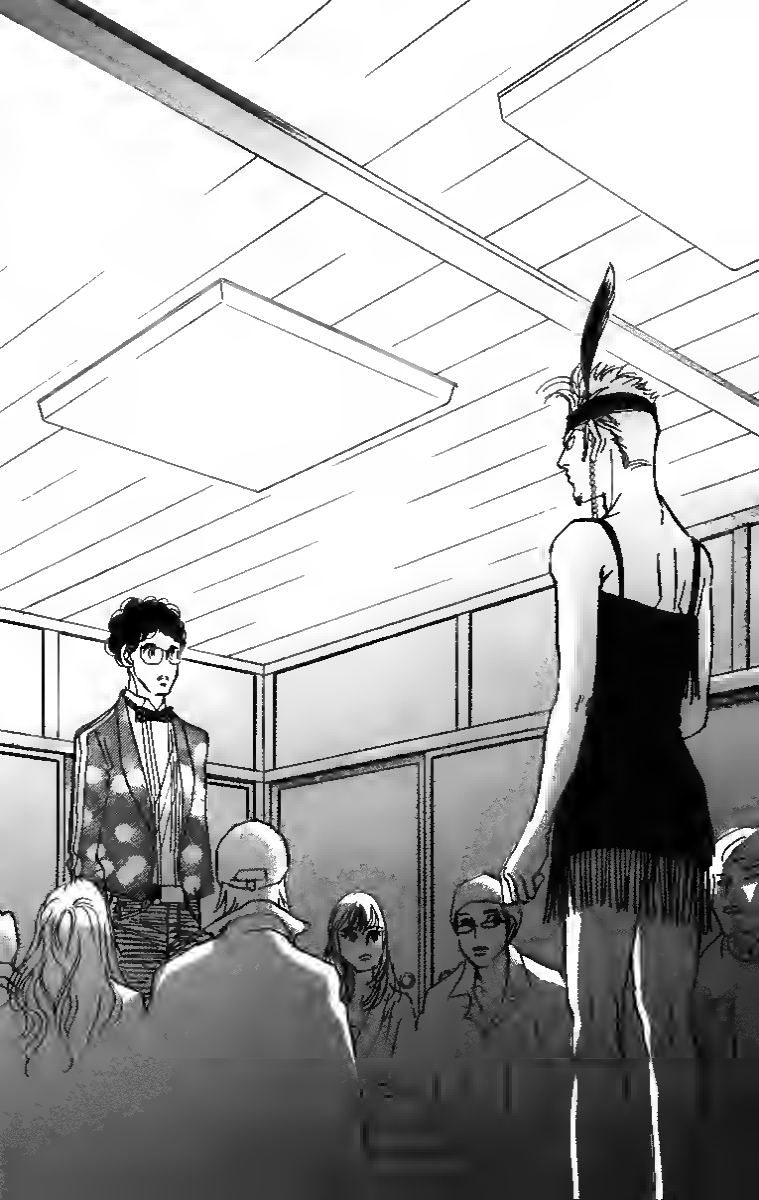

TAH - DAH!
WELL, THIS IS AS MUCH AS I'LL ALLOW FOR TONIGHT—
—I THOUGHT, BUT—!!
What did you just say?!
ONE MORE SONG—!!
AH HA HA HA HA

ON RAINY DAYS,
I JUST GET WET.
ON SUNNY DAYS,
I JUST DRY OUT.
ON STORMY DAYS,
I JUST DRINK SAKE
ON CLOUDY DAYS,
I JUST READ A BOOK

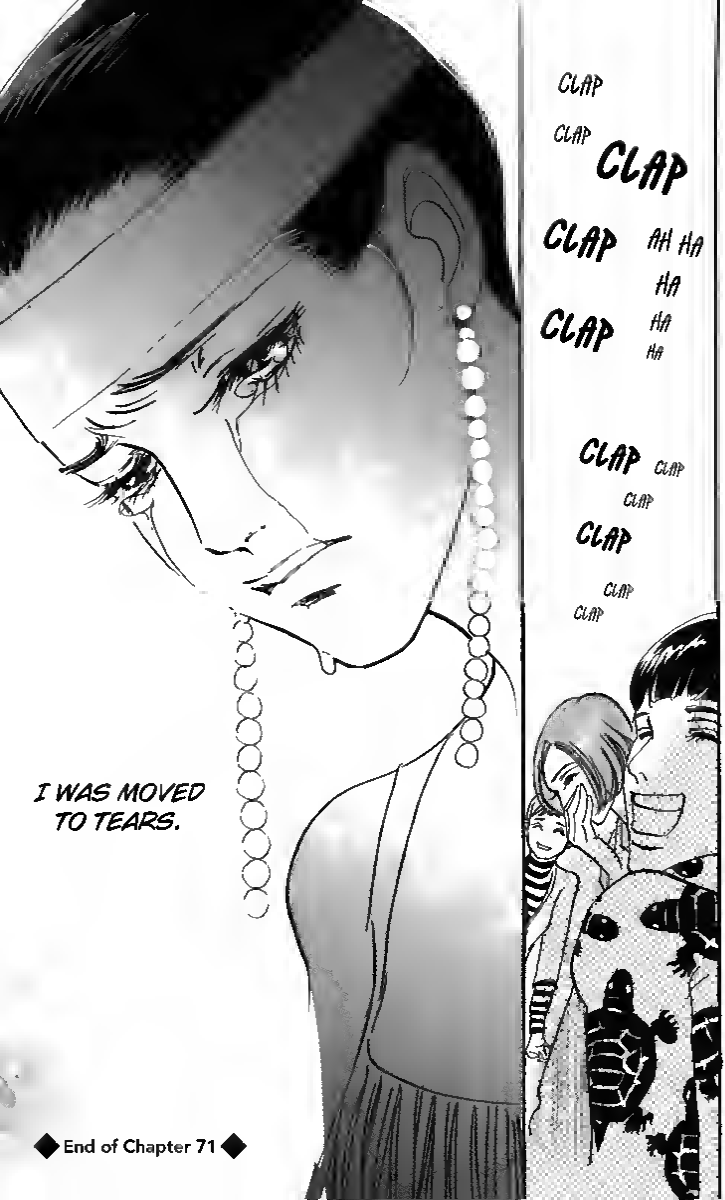
AND SO I QUIETLY GAZE AT THE WORLD, LET THE NIGHT GO BY WITHOUT HESITATION

THE WIND THAT BLOWS IN MY HEART MIXES EVERYTHING TOGETHER.

I AM RIGHT THERE.
WE'RE FRIENDS.



WORKING WITH YOU, BOSS, WAS MY HAPPINESS.
I CAN'T EVEN
HMPH!



◆ End of Chapter 71 ◆

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CLICK!
CLICK!
CHATTER
CHATTER
GOOD MORNING.

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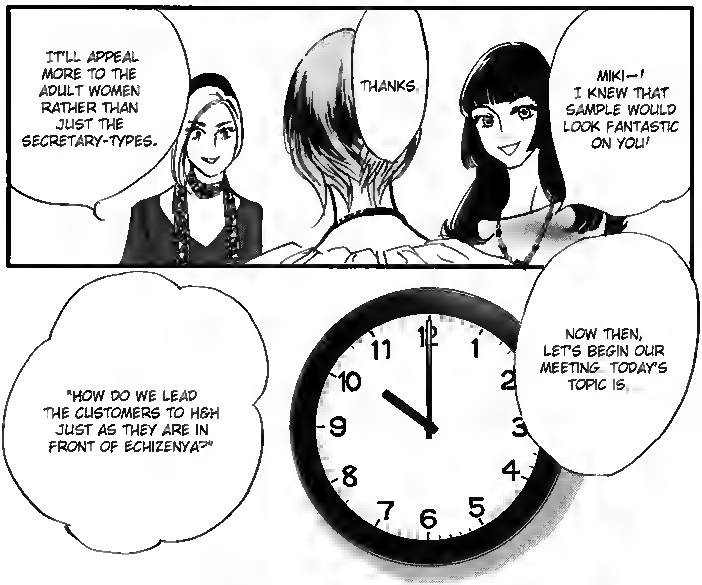
Chapter 72

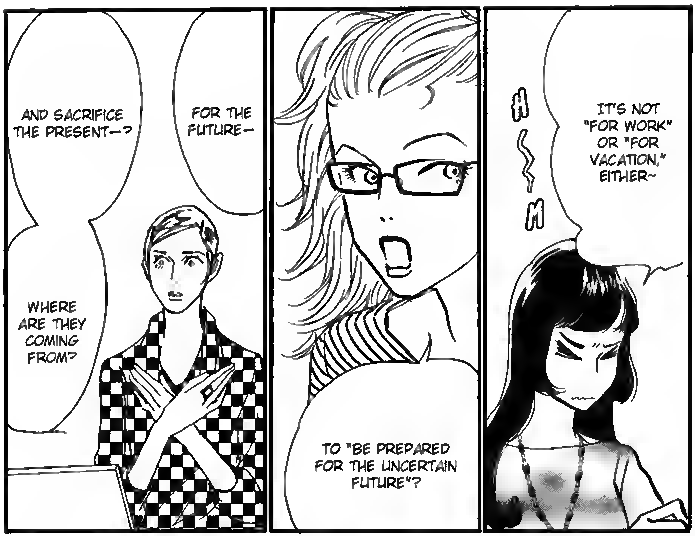
GOOD MORNING!

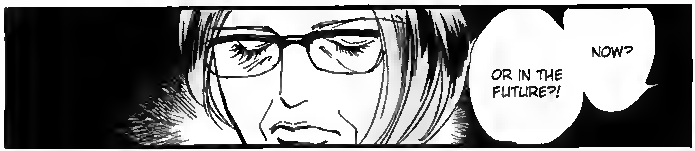

IT'LL APPEAL MORE TO THE ADULT WOMEN RATHER THAN JUST THE SECRETARY-TYPES.
THANKS.
MIKI—! I KNEW THAT SAMPLE WOULD LOOK FANTASTIC ON YOU!
"HOW DO WE LEAD THE CUSTOMERS TO H&H JUST AS THEY ARE IN FRONT OF ECHIZENYA?"
NOW THEN, LET'S BEGIN OUR MEETING. TODAY'S TOPIC IS...

WITH A WINDOW SHOWDOWN! THE DISPLAY WINDOWS OF A DEPARTMENT STORE SUCH AS ECHIZENYA ARE TARGETING A WIDE RANGE OF MEN AND WOMEN.
THEREFORE, WHEN THEY PUT ON A SEASONAL EXHIBITION, IT TENDS TO BE TOO GENERIC.
TO EXPLOIT THIS WEAKNESS, WE AT H&H CAN SPECIFICALLY CATER TO YOUNG WOMEN.
BY MAKING A WINDOW ABOUT AN EVENT THAT APPEALS TO WOMEN, WE'LL CATCH THE CUSTOMERS.
H&H
"A HATSUMODE" DATE," "THE FIRST SALE," "VALENTINE'S," "A SPRING DATE IN A SKIRT,"
AS FOR THE GIRL'S EVENT,
IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR WEAKNESS IS BEING UNABLE TO TARGET YOUNG WOMEN AS THEIR AUDIENCE.
"THE DAY YOU MEET THE NEW GUY AT WORK,
"STANDING OUT AT MY FRIEND'S RECEPTION."
AH AH AH AH-

("T/N "Hatsumode" is the first visit made to a temple or shrine in a calendar year. Everyone able should go, but it can double as a date for younger generations.)

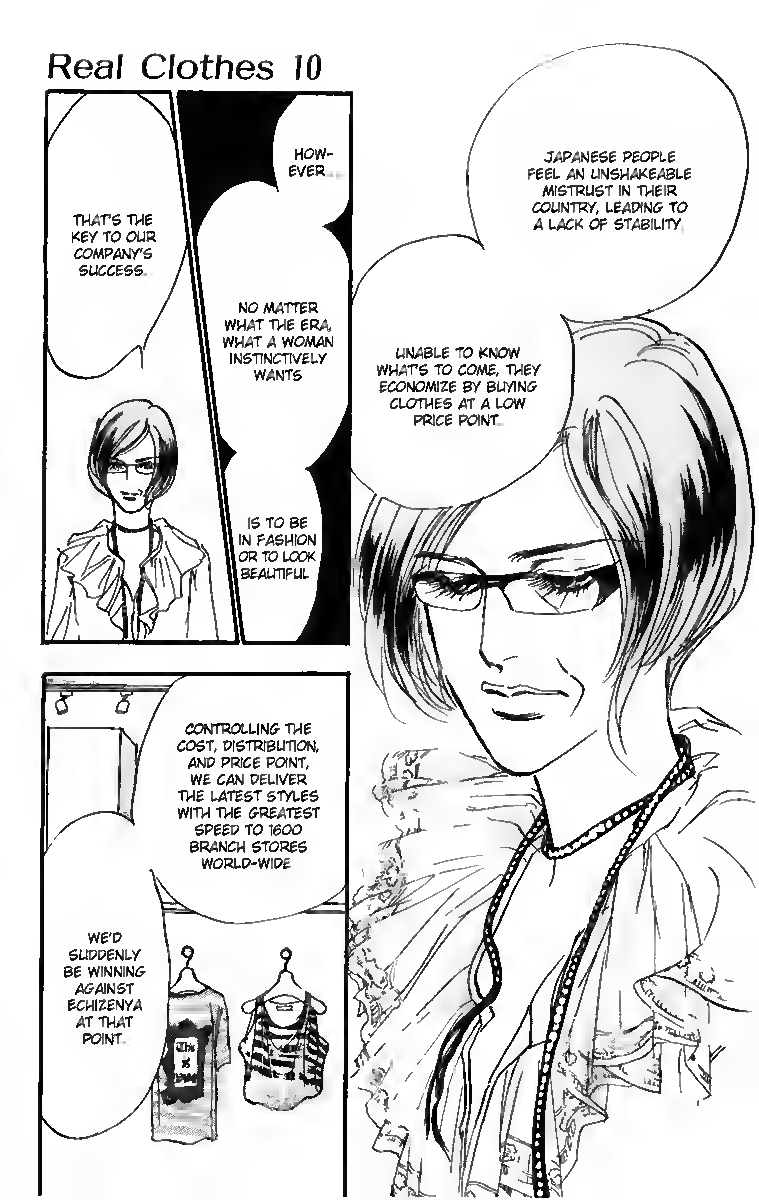
"SUMMER VACANCE"!
AH— THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
WOMEN DON'T!
WHY DON'T JAPANESE WOMEN GO "EN VACANCE"?
THEY CAN'T. THEY'RE BUSY
IF THEY TAKE A LONG BREAK, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK.
WHAT ARE THEY LIVING FOR?!
WHAT'S FUN FOR THEM? COULD THEY LOVE WORKING THAT MUCH?
WHAT IS IT FOR...? HM~.


IT'S NOT "FOR WORK" OR "FOR VACATION," EITHER~
HMM
TO "BE PREPARED FOR THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE"?
FOR THE FUTURE—
AND SACRIFICE THE PRESENT—?
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM?


NOW?
OR IN THE FUTURE?!

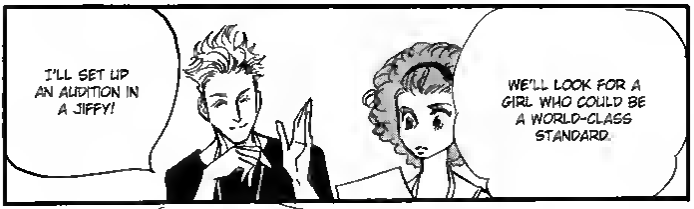
THIS IS UNDER DEBATE EVEN AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL

Real Clothes 10

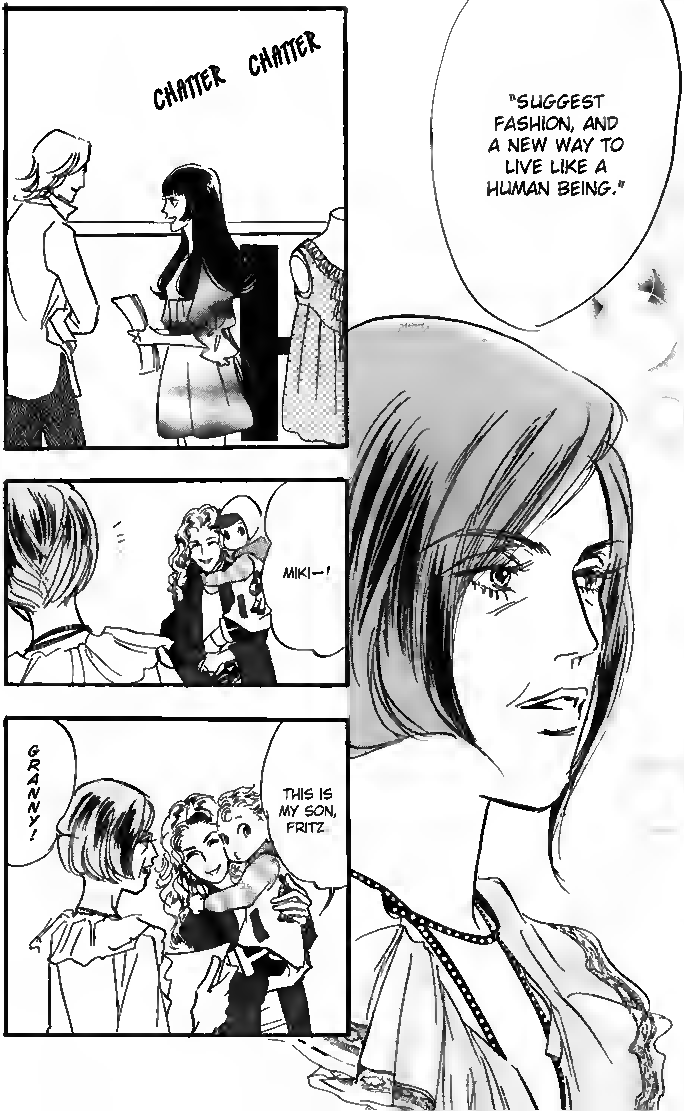

JAPANESE PEOPLE FEEL AN UNSHAKEABLE MISTRUST IN THEIR COUNTRY, LEADING TO A LACK OF STABILITY.
UNABLE TO KNOW WHAT'S TO COME, THEY ECONOMIZE BY BUYING CLOTHES AT A LOW PRICE POINT.
HOW-EVER...
NO MATTER WHAT THE ERA, WHAT A WOMAN INSTINCTIVELY WANTS
IS TO BE IN FASHION OR TO LOOK BEAUTIFUL
THAT'S THE KEY TO OUR COMPANY'S SUCCESS.
CONTROLLING THE COST, DISTRIBUTION, AND PRICE POINT, WE CAN DELIVER THE LATEST STYLES WITH THE GREATEST SPEED TO 1600 BRANCH STORES WORLD-WIDE
WE'D SUDDENLY BE WINNING AGAINST ECHIZENYA AT THAT POINT.

SPEED AND A WORLD-CLASS FASHION SENSE.
OUR WEAPONS ARE
WE'LL ADD A TOKYO GIRLS EVENT TO OUR STRATEGY.
YES, MA'AM!
PLEASE SUBMIT IDEAS FOR DISPLAYS WITH THIS PURPOSE. WE'LL SET A DEADLINE FOR NEXT WEEK.
SARAH JESSICA OR PENELOPE
KATE MOSS!
THE SECOND TOPIC IS ABOUT OUR PRODUCT PLACEMENT.
"WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TO WEAR US, AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE?"
AN-CHAN!

WE'LL SELL THAT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD FROM HERE.
SOMEONE FROM JAPAN,
A NEWCOMER, WHOLESOME, WOULD BE GOOD.


I'LL SET UP AN AUDITION IN A JIFFY!
WE'LL LOOK FOR A GIRL WHO COULD BE A WORLD-CLASS STANDARD.

"I UNDERSTAND WELL THE PRESENT CONDITION THAT JAPANESE GIRLS HAVE BEEN LEFT IN."
"SHOW THOSE GIRLS A STANDARD OF MEASURE."
LET'S RE-CONFIRM OUR GOALS ONE FINAL TIME.
AND FINALLY,
CLICK


CHATTER CHATTER
"SUGGEST FASHION, AND A NEW WAY TO LIVE LIKE A HUMAN BEING."
MIKI—!
GRANNY!
THIS IS MY SON, FRITZ.

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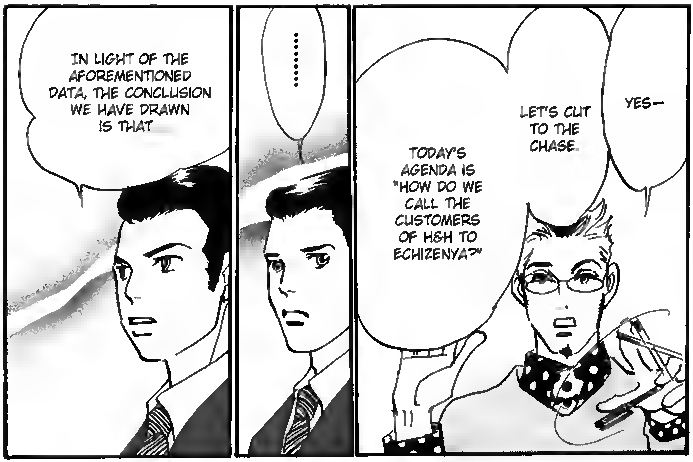
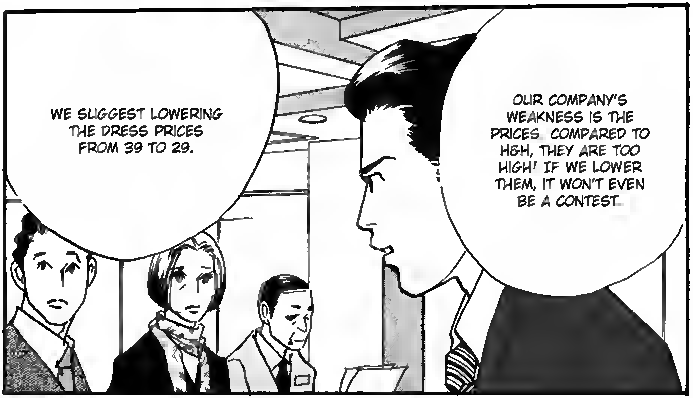
AH HA HA HA
PITI!
HOW IS IT?
THE SENSATION OF WEARING OUR COMPANY'S CLOTHES?
IT'S MISSING SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO WEARS ALL SORTS OF CLOTHES
WHAT'S MISSING IS.. MY YOUTHFUL BODY
I'VE DISCOVERED THAT I GET ENERGIZED BY WEARING H&H.
I WANT TO HAVE SENIORS WEAR H&H TOO

"WE'LL MAKE THE MADAMS AMONG THE ECHIZENYA FANS—
OUR OWN FANS!"
WE'LL GET RIGHT ON IT AT TOMORROW'S MEETING.
—WHICH BRINGS ME TO
THE NEXT ITEM ON PAGE 25 IN YOUR DOCUMENTS
THIS IS A GRAPH REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRODUCTS AND THE PRICE RANGE

FLIP
WHAT I'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT HERE IS .
FLIP
...THE ALREADY SOLD OUT IN GREATEST QUANTITY, D'S—
FLIP
...TOPS— BUT IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY.
NEXT, ON PAGE 26.
BOSS, KNOCK IT OFF
IF I DO THIS, I WON'T DOZE OFF.
WELL... WE ARE SLEEPY.
WITH THAT COMPLETE, ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?


IN LIGHT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED DATA, THE CONCLUSION WE HAVE DRAWN IS THAT...
.....
TODAY'S AGENDA IS "HOW DO WE CALL THE CUSTOMERS OF H&H TO ECHIZENYA?"
LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.
YES—


WE SUGGEST LOWERING THE DRESS PRICES FROM 39 TO 29.
OUR COMPANY'S WEAKNESS IS THE PRICES. COMPARED TO H&H, THEY ARE TOO HIGH! IF WE LOWER THEM, IT WON'T EVEN BE A CONTEST.

PLOP!

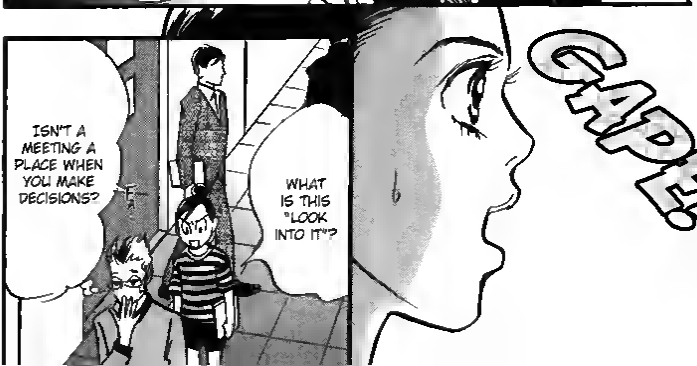
I OPPOSE!!
HE'S WIDE AWAKE NOW!
UH--
WE'LL TURN INTO HSH, AND THEN WHAT?
39 FOR A DRESS IS JUST BREAKING EVEN!
WE'RE SELLING 59 DRESSES AT 39 ALREADY! AT THE VERY LEAST, CENTER THE PRICES AT 39!!
IT'S NOT CHEAP!!
OUR PRICING REFLECTS THE HIGH QUALITY! OUR GOOD SENSE!

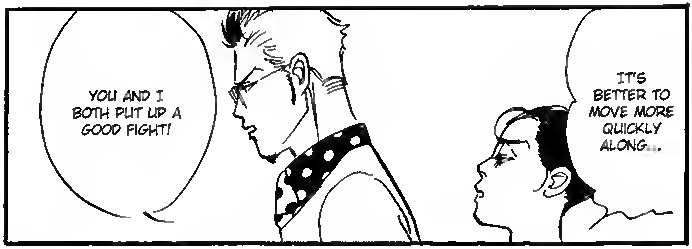
GAPE
YE_S, WE'LL LOOK INTO THAT.
AND YOU GET TO WEAR IT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT FOR THE PRICE OF BUYING IT ONCE! THAT'S CHEAP.
THEY'RE SENSIBLE, AND NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THEY WON'T EMBARRASS YOU. YOU NEVER GET TIRED OF WEARING THEM.
THEY'LL END UP SAYING, "I LOOK FORWARD TO SHOPPING AT ECHIZENYA!"
THAT'S THE KIND OF CLOTHING WE ARRANGE FOR!!
NEXT, THE ALITLMN PRODUCT PLACEMENT...
SCRAPE!
EXCUSE ME!

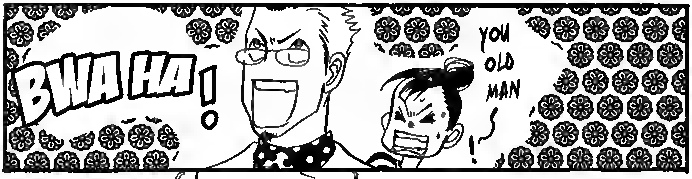
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, WE GAVE BRAND NEW MODELS THEIR DEBUT.
WE CHOSE REGULAR GIRLS FROM AROUND TOWN.
WHILE HSH USED THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE,

WE CAN DO IT!
IF ECHIZENYA SAYS, "THIS GIRL IS AMAZING!" IT'LL BE FINE!
WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE BRAND WHEN IT COMES TO FASHION.
PUT THAT WAY, IT'S POSSIBLE... DO YOU WANT AN UNKNOWN FOR AN ICON?

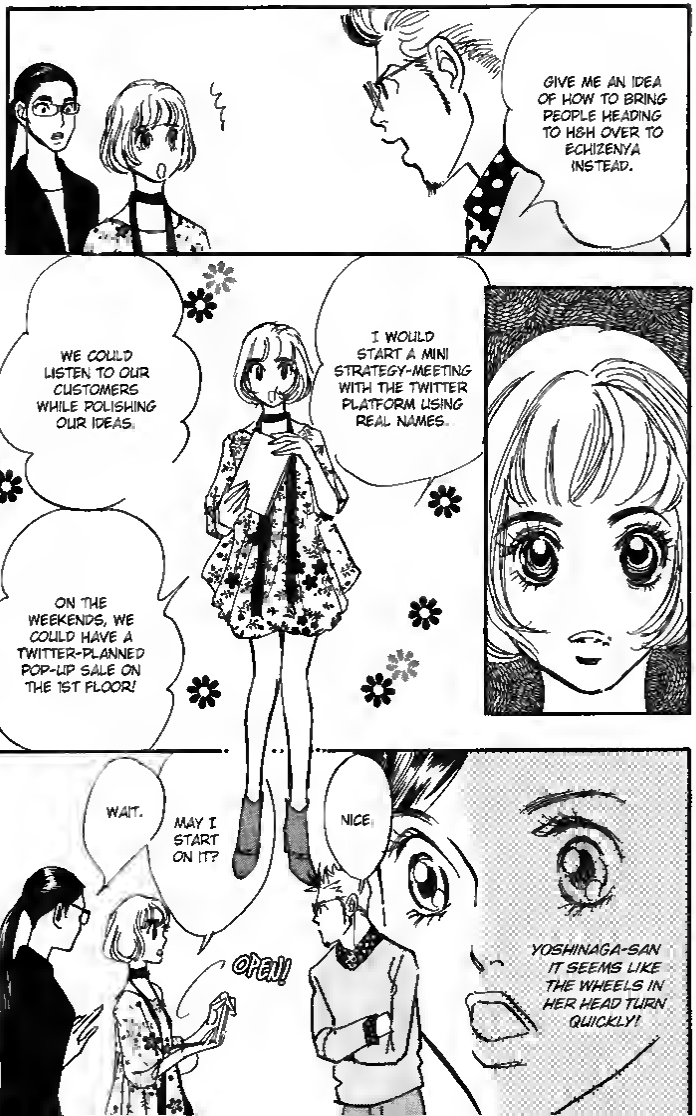
WE'LL LOOK INTO IT.
.....

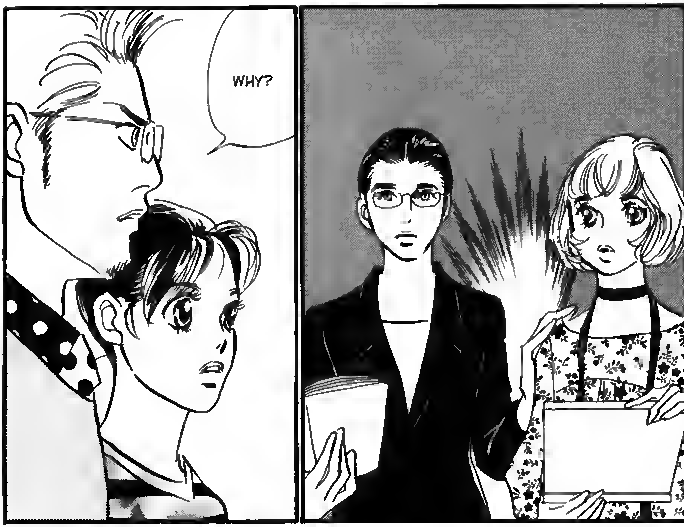

ISN'T A MEETING A PLACE WHEN YOU MAKE DECISIONS?
WHAT IS THIS "LOOK INTO IT"?
GAPE!

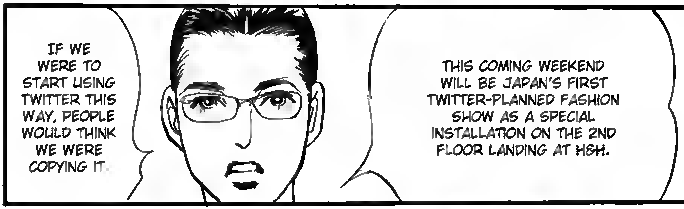

YOU AND I BOTH PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT!
IT'S BETTER TO MOVE MORE QUICKLY ALONG...

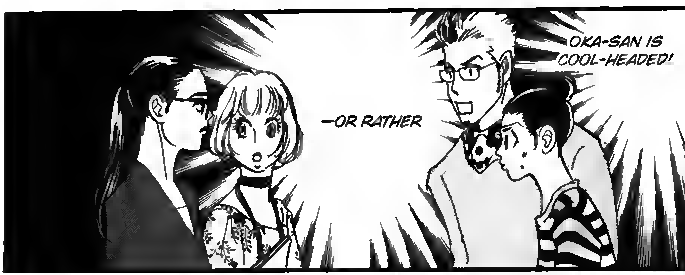

BWA HA!
YOU OLD MAN!

TABUCHI, AMANO-SAN, COME OVER HERE A MINUTE~
I'VE BEEN BROUGHT IN FROM FOREIGN SALES OKA ASAKO
I'M YOSHINAGA YUI FROM THE SHOE DEPARTMENT.
NIKO'S REPLACEMENT IS HERE—


GIVE ME AN IDEA OF HOW TO BRING PEOPLE HEADING TO H&H OVER TO ECHIZENYA INSTEAD.
I WOULD START A MINI STRATEGY-MEETING WITH THE TWITTER PLATFORM USING REAL NAMES.
WE COULD LISTEN TO OUR CUSTOMERS WHILE POLISHING OUR IDEAS.
ON THE WEEKENDS, WE COULD HAVE A TWITTER-PLANNED POP-UP SALE ON THE 1ST FLOOR!
NICE.
WAIT.
MAY I START ON IT?
OPEN!
YOSHINAGA-SAN IT SEEMS LIKE THE WHEELS IN HER HEAD TURN QUICKLY!


WHY?


IF WE WERE TO START USING TWITTER THIS WAY, PEOPLE WOULD THINK WE WERE COPYING IT.
THIS COMING WEEKEND WILL BE JAPAN'S FIRST TWITTER-PLANNED FASHION SHOW AS A SPECIAL INSTALLATION ON THE 2ND FLOOR LANDING AT H&H.


OKA-SAN IS COOL-HEADED!
—OR RATHER

End of Chapter 72

Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

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Proof-read by : Cyber_3
Cleaned by : Paralda
Typeset by : In Velen's Name
QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

Chapter 73

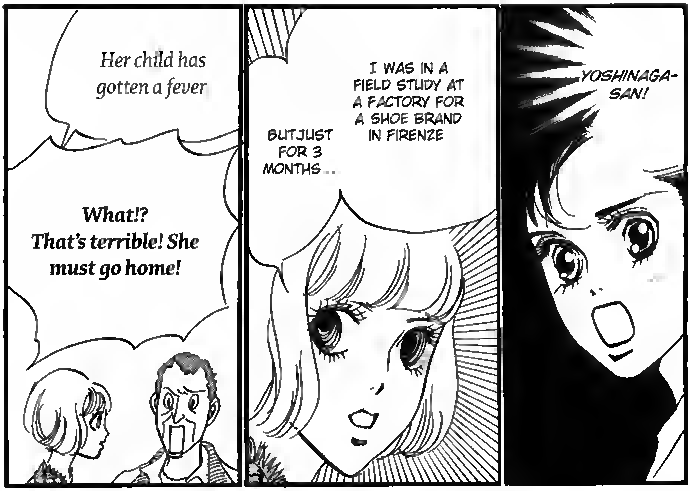
We consider it an honor to make the Japanese debut of "Borrelli" through Echizenya.
Lo spero così
"Echizenya"~
THE HONOR IS OURS. WE WILL ABSOLUTELY SEE TO IT THAT "BORRELLI" IS A HIT.
DAZZLED
vestito~
WELL THEN, FIRST I WILL EXPLAIN ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE DRESSES FOR THE CUSTOMER BASE WE CAN DRAW AT ECHIZENYA

—AND BESIDES THAT, NIKO WAS ABLE TO SPEAK HOW MANY LANGUAGES?
我你喜欢
愛してます。
Io L'amo
I love you
Je vous aime
OKA-SAN... IS AMAZING SO THE RUMORS THAT SHE WAS OUTSTANDING IN THE FOREIGN SALES DEPARTMENT ARE TRUE
ITALIAN— I DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR, BUT ENGLISH IS DEFINITELY NECESSARY—
NO— NO MATTER WHAT LANGUAGE I CHOOSE . I'M SURE THERE'S SOFTWARE THAT CAN TRANSLATE IT INTO JAPANESE WITH SOME CONSIDERATION.
PRETENDING TO UNDERSTAND
RTING!
Learn English conversation

RING!
RING!
SHUFFLE!
I'M SORRY. PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT
WE GET SUCCESS! TOGETHER!!
HA HA HA!
It's funny to him!
WELL.. THERE'S ALSO THE "IMPRESSION YOU MAKE," RIGHT—?
....

Ah...
PARDON ME!
WHAT'S WRONG!
MY CHILD— HAS COLLAPSED FROM A HIGH FEVER.
EH?!

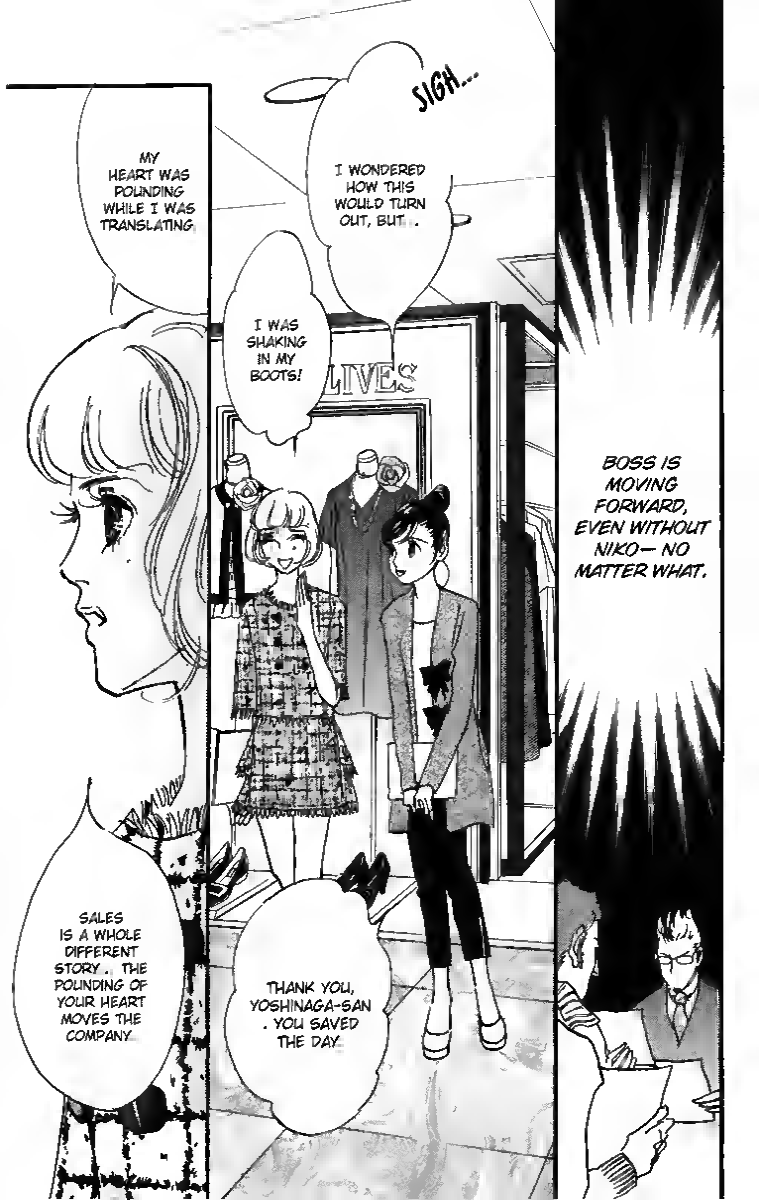
WITH A HIGH FEVER!!
OKA-SAN HAS A CHILD?!
EH?!
SQUINCH
I'LL TRANSLATE THE REST OF THIS.
STAND...
I'M SO SORRY.
?
THEN GO HOME RIGHT AWAY.


Her child has gotten a fever
What!? That's terrible! She must go home!
I WAS IN A FIELD STUDY AT A FACTORY FOR A SHOE BRAND IN FIRENZE
BUTJUST FOR 3 MONTHS...
YOSHINAGA-SAN!

Please excuse me
When they see their mama's face, they'll feel better. Thank you very much for today, Madame Oka

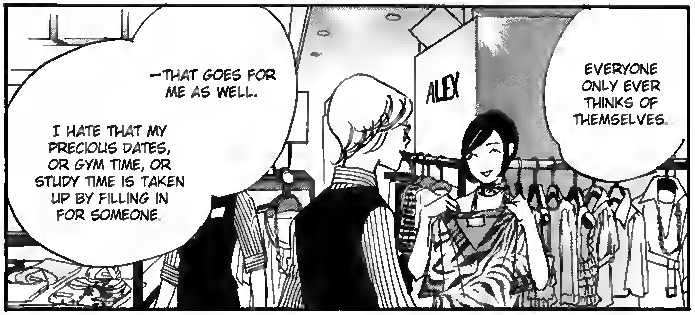
—— Prezzo
Now—about the central price of the dresses
RUSH RUSH

We won't allow "Borrelli" to lose out. Not after the transportation costs, import fees, and usual legalities—that is,
That's insane! That would make them cheaper than they are in Italy!
WE PLAN ON PUTTING OUT YOUR 28,000 YEN DRESSES FOR 19,000 YEN.
BOSS!
THIS IS A FIGHT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PRICE OF WHAT WE CALL CLOTHES.

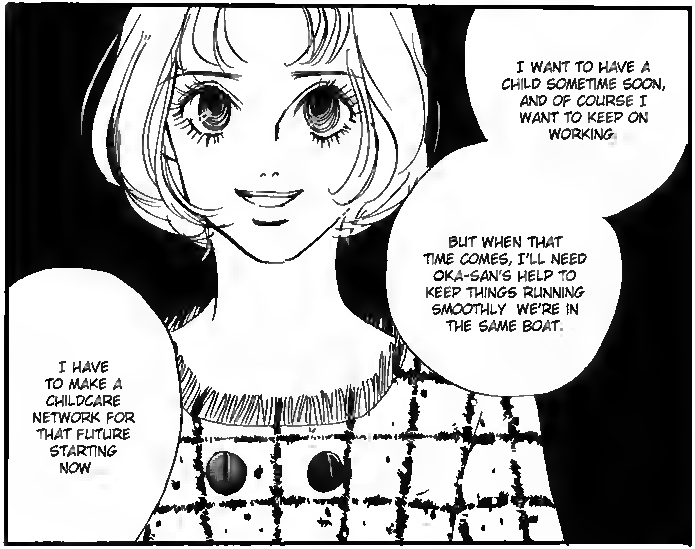

SIGH...
I WONDERED HOW THIS WOULD TURN OUT, BUT...
MY HEART WAS POUNDING WHILE I WAS TRANSLATING.
I WAS SHAKING IN MY BOOTS!
BOSS IS MOVING FORWARD, EVEN WITHOUT NIKO— NO MATTER WHAT.
THANK YOU, YOSHINAGA-SAN. YOU SAVED THE DAY.
SALES IS A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY. THE POUNDING OF YOUR HEART MOVES THE COMPANY.

IT FEELS LIKE THIS IS WHAT A JOB SHOULD BE!
THE BORRELLI REP CALLED TABUCHI-SAN A "SAMURAI."
I THOUGHT SO, TOO.
THAT SAMURAI WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD OKA-SAN, "GO HOME RIGHT AWAY!"
HEE HEE
WHEN IT COMES TO CHILDREN, MEN FIND THE EXCUSE UNTOUCHABLE.
I...
WAS CONVINCED OKA-SAN IS SINGLE—
I CAN ONLY VISUALIZE THE BUYER'S ROOM AS FULL OF SINGLE PEOPLE.
Why is that?
SHE HAS A SON— SEEMS LIKE HE'S A SENIOR.
I GUESS
FEVERS... THEY HAPPEN FREQUENTLY.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

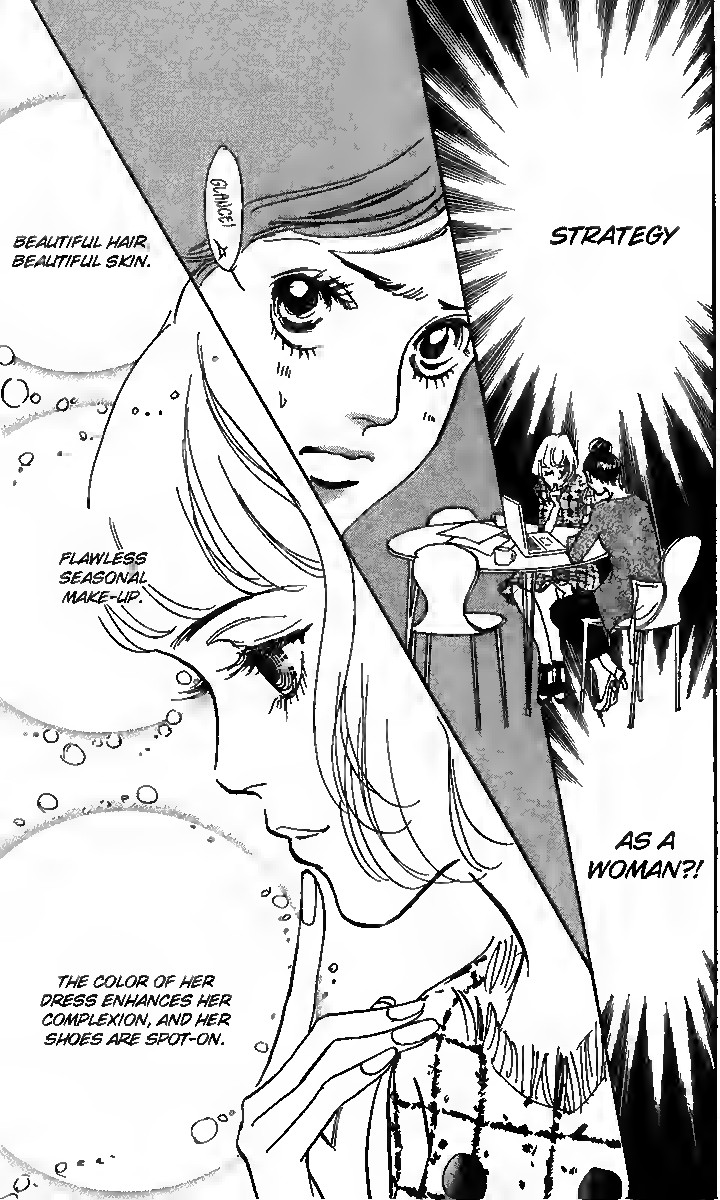
I'VE HEARD FROM OKA-SAN ABOUT HER CIRCUMSTANCES AND WILL BE HER REPLACEMENT IN AN EMERGENCY.
OH?! YOSHINAGA-SAN, YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!!
BUT... HONESTLY, I FEEL LIKE IT'S AN EXCUSE
WHO IS GOING TO FILL IN THE GAP YOU LEAVE?
I HEARD RUMORS THAT THIS IS WHY THINGS WEREN'T GOING WELL FOR OKA-SAN IN FOREIGN SALES
THAT'S THE MAJOR POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN WOMEN.
GULP!
THAT KIND OF RUMBLING IS AWFUL.

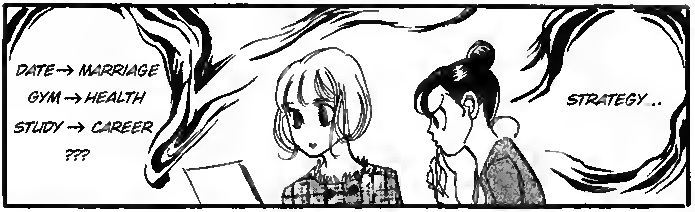

EVERYONE ONLY EVER THINKS OF THEMSELVES.
ALEX
--THAT GOES FOR ME AS WELL.
I HATE THAT MY PRECIOUS DATES, OR GYM TIME, OR STUDY TIME IS TAKEN UP BY FILLING IN FOR SOMEONE.

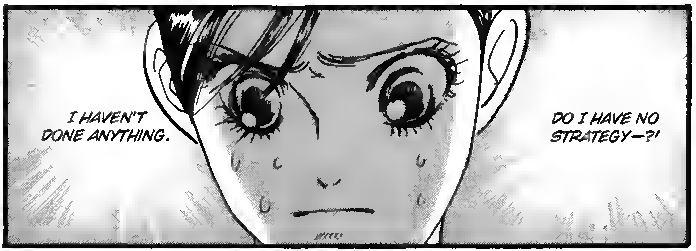
BUT...


I WANT TO HAVE A CHILD SOMETIME SOON, AND OF COURSE I WANT TO KEEP ON WORKING.
BUT WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL NEED OKA-SAN'S HELP TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY. WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT.
I HAVE TO MAKE A CHILDCARE NETWORK FOR THAT FUTURE STARTING NOW.

STARTLE!
THAT'S MY STRATEGY AS A WOMAN.
Uh..
Eh?
CAN I HAVE YOU TEACH ME THE ESSENTIALS OF INVENTORY ADJUSTMENT?
I'M GOING TO BECOME "USEFUL" FASTER THAN A BLINK.
Su sure!


BEAUTIFUL HAIR. BEAUTIFUL SKIN.
GLANCE!
FLAWLESS SEASONAL MAKE-UP.
THE COLOR OF HER DRESS ENHANCES HER COMPLEXION, AND HER SHOES ARE SPOT-ON.
STRATEGY
AS A WOMAN?!


DATE→ MARRIAGE
GYM→ HEALTH
STUDY→ CAREER
???
STRATEGY ..


I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
DO I HAVE NO STRATEGY—?!

CLATTER!
ES— ESPECIALLY "DATING"— I HAVEN'T AT ALL!
OKAY!
SEE YOU LATER
I'M GOING TO THE SALES FLOOR.

BUT HERE...
85% OF THE PEOPLE WORKING ON THE ACTUAL FLOOR ARE WOMEN.
DEPARTMENT STORES ARE A FEMALE COMMUNITY...
WHEN I'M AT A BUSINESS RECEPTION OR BEFORE PURCHASING, OR IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, I GET IT— THAT THE "COMPANY GUYS" ARE MEN AS A RULE WHO MOVE THE COMPANY.
CLICK!
SMILE WHEN YOU COME ON TO THE SALES FLOOR!!
JUMP!

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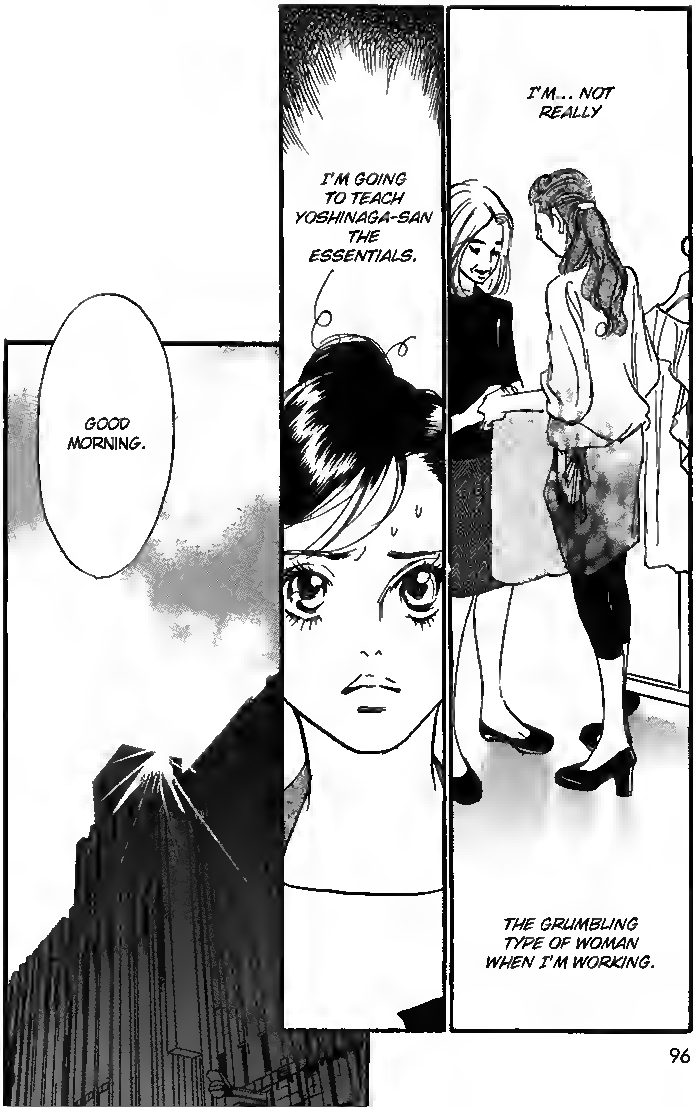
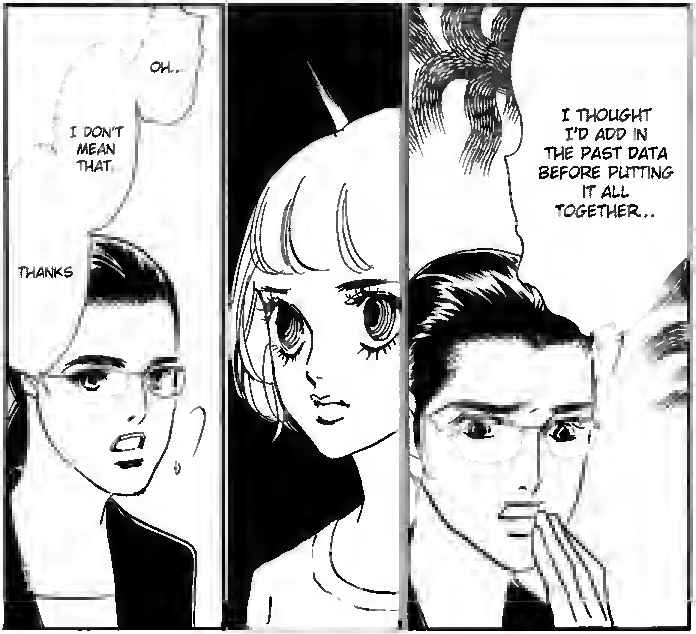
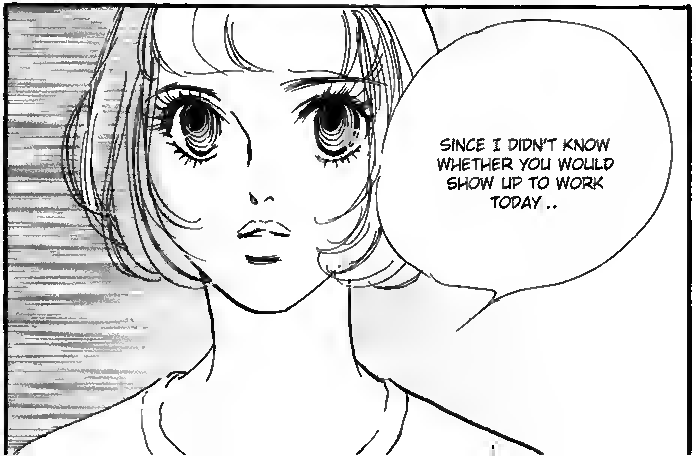
SORRY—!
THE ECONOMIC-SLUMP-FACE INTERFERES WITH SALES.
HEY, GOING FROM A CONTRACT TO A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE MEANS THAT THE WORK YOU DO IS THE SAME, RIGHT?!
JUST THAT YOUR OVERTIME INCREASES?
I'M GLAD TO SAY THAT THE CONTENTS OF MY JOB EXPANDED IN DEPTH AND BREADTH
MY RESPONSIBILITIES AND MY PRIDE INCREASED
"HEY, GO BUY SOME GOOD CLOTHES LIKE WHAT WE GOT!"
—CAN I SAY THAT?
AH AH AH AH AH!
EXCUSE ME—
THE FITTING ROOM IS .
YES, MA'AM!


I'M... NOT REALLY
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOSHINAGA-SAN THE ESSENTIALS.
GOOD MORNING.
THE GRUMBLING TYPE OF WOMAN WHEN I'M WORKING.

I'VE LEFT HIM WITH MY PARENTS FOR THE DAY.
YES, THANK GOD. THE FEVER HAS GONE DOWN.
YO. ALRIGHT?
PLEASE FORGIVE MY TERRIBLE RUDENESS.
THAT'S GREAT WHAT A RELIEF.
AH!
OKA-SAN, I'VE PUT TOGETHER EVERYTHING ALL THE MATERIALS FOR TODAY'S PRESENTATION


I THOUGHT I'D ADD IN THE PAST DATA BEFORE PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER..
OH..
I DON'T MEAN THAT.
THANKS


SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WOULD SHOW UP TO WORK TODAY..

OKAY—
I FINALLY GOT AN E-MAIL FROM "BORRELLI."
OKAY!
OKAY!
MOVE!
LET'S ALL GET TO IT!
Woohoo!
THIS IS...
THIS SPRING-SUMMER WILL GO SPLENDIDLY—!!
A FEMALE COMMUNITY TOO~!
End of Chapter 73

Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

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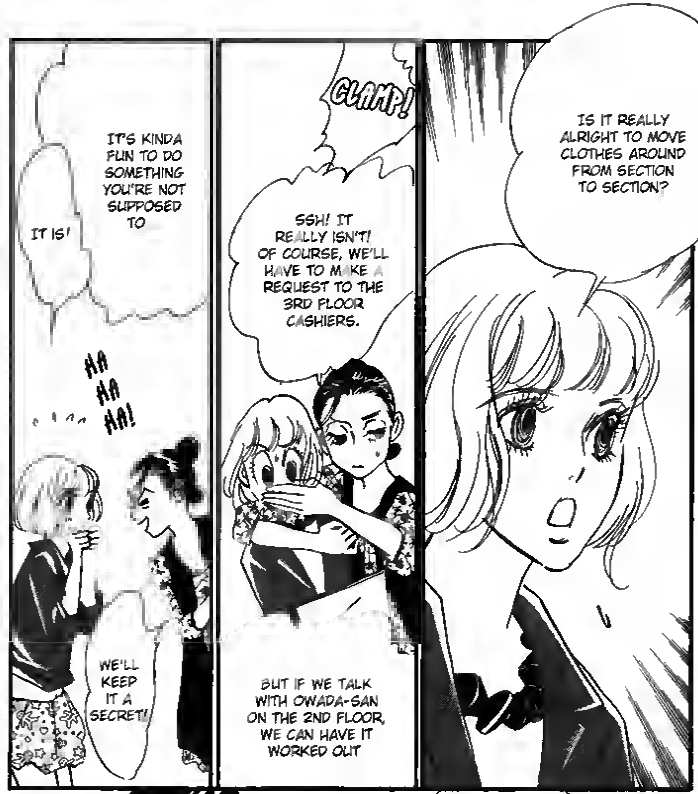
Cleaned by : Faralda
Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

Chapter 74

GOOD MORNING!
TEAM TABUCHI, REBOOTED!
GOOD MORNING!
SURE!
PLEASE GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES
YOSHINAGA YUI, 25 AND GORGEOUS.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT CONSULTING WITH CHIEF HAYASHI-SAN OF "THE SPACE"
OVER THE IDEA TO INCREASE THE "ELÉ" ONE-PIECE SWIMSUITS.
ABOUT THE SHOP'S WINDOW SALE AT THE END OF APRIL...
I WILL!
YOU'VE GOT AN AWESOME SENSE FOR FINDING WHAT WILL SELL.
IF SHE GIVES YOU THE OKAY, THEN GO AHEAD AND PREPARE THE ADDITIONAL ORDER
SHE TAKES THE BULL BY THE HORNS!
EH?! SURE!
OH!
THEN THERE'S THIS— IT'S A DESIGN THAT'S DIFFICULT TO MARKET ON THE 3RD FLOOR
IF YOU SEE THAT IT'S NOT SELLING, I'D LIKE TO TRY PUTTING IT ON A 2ND FLOOR MANNEQUIN.


IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO MOVE CLOTHES AROUND FROM SECTION TO SECTION?
CLAMP!
SSH! IT REALLY ISN'T! OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A REQUEST TO THE 3RD FLOOR CASHIERS.
BUT IF WE TALK WITH OWADA-SAN ON THE 2ND FLOOR, WE CAN HAVE IT WORKED OUT
IT'S KINDA FUN TO DO SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO
IT IS!
HA HA HA!
WE'LL KEEP IT A SECRET!

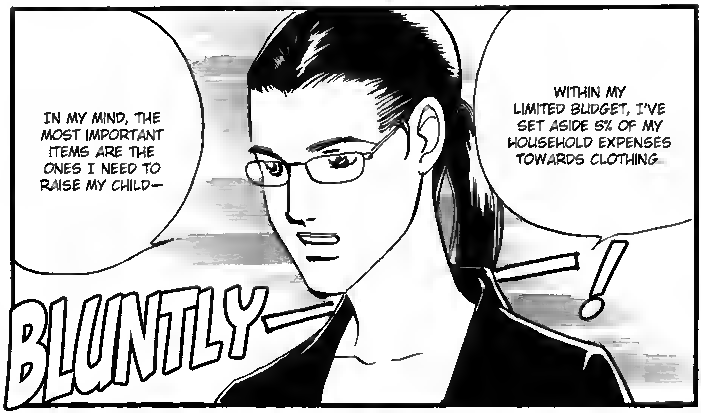
THE FINAL DRAFTS OF THE SPRING DIRECT MARKETING PLANS HAVE COME OUT.
THE CHECKS ON PRICING AND LABELS ARE COMPLETE.
ALSO, THERE'S OKA ASAKO, 35.
AT FIRST LOOK, SHE'S QUITE UNFASHIONABLE...

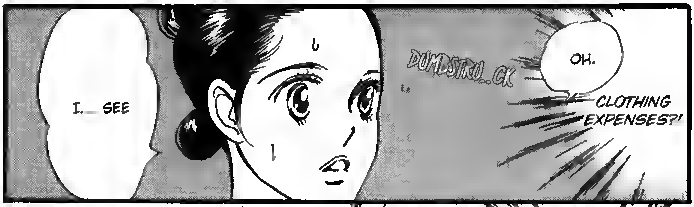
UM...
HOW BEAUTIFUL! GOOD WORK...
HER WORK IS PERFECT. THROUGH-AND-THROUGH! SHE WON'T FORGIVE ANY MISTAKES.
HM?!
I THINK THAT THE LEAD LINE HERE WAS A BIT OFFSET BY THE PRINTERS.
THE INK RAN LIGHT AT THIS SPOT...
Looking close and still can't see it.
Ye...
YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
HE~~Y!
GOOD MORNING!
Glitter!
Tuist

TABUCHI-SAN, PLEASE SIGN THIS!
AND THEN
WHOA!
TABUCHI-SAN, THIS ERROR REQUIRES APPROXIMATELY THREE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME, RIGHT NOW!
EVEN I COULDN'T READ THIS MEMO AT ALL.
—AND PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR IS AND 7S ARE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE
UH—
THIS BAR, "SAKURA," THAT SOMETIMES GETS THROWN IN— I CAN'T ACCEPT IT IN ANY WAY, SO I'M GIVING THIS BACK TO YOU
OKAY!
OKAY!
OKAY!
THIS IS THE FF COMPANY'S CONTRACT CHECKLIST.
ASAP!

BOTH OF THEM ARE FAR SUPERIOR THAN I WAS WHEN I TRANSFERRED IN— THEIR WORK PROGRESSES WITH GUSTO.
They're already waiting for you in the Conference Booth.
After that, again at 1 PM! I'll send the car around!
Please triple-check the additional values!
Yaaaaaa~
PFFT!
AS IT IS, THEY FILL THE SPACE THAT WAS MADE WHEN NIKO LEFT...
OR IS IT JUST EASIER TO DO SOMETHING RATHER THAN SIT AROUND WORRYING ABOUT IT?

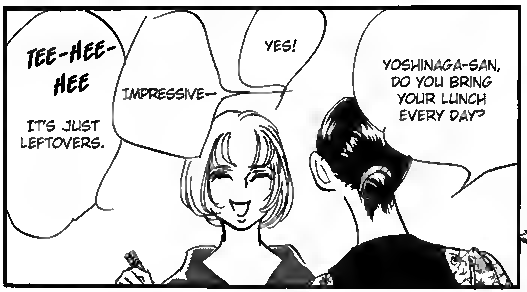
OKA-SAN
YES?
Ladies 3rd Department Kitchenette
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT, WITH HORI-SAN?
WELL...
SHE SAID, "A BUYER BASIC IS FASHIONABLE PERSONAL CLOTHES," AND, "I'M GLOOMY."
OH.
WELL, YOU ARE~
HA HA HA!
I'VE BEEN TOLD I'M OUTDATED AS WELL—

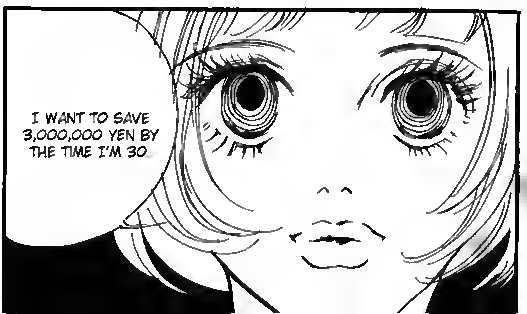

IN MY MIND, THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS ARE THE ONES I NEED TO RAISE MY CHILD—
WITHIN MY LIMITED BUDGET, I'VE SET ASIDE 5% OF MY HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES TOWARDS CLOTHING.
BLUNTLY—
!


I... SEE
OH.
CLOTHING EXPENSES?!

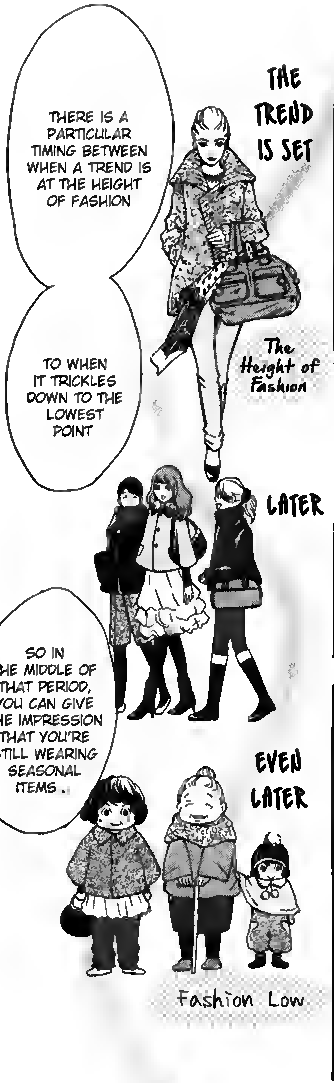
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HEARD PHRASES LIKE THAT.
REALLY. "WITHIN MY LIMITED BUDGET," "CLOTHING EXPENSES"— THAT'S HOW IT IS WHEN YOU HAVE A HOUSEHOLD.

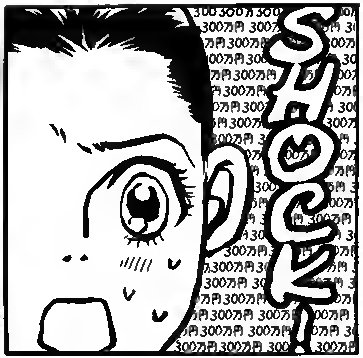
IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THERE'S A TENDENCY TO OVER-BUY IN THIS LINE OF WORK.

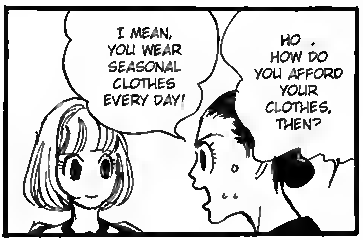


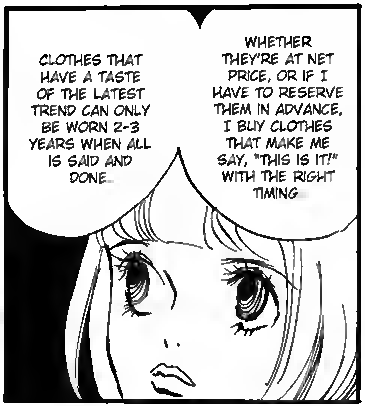


ISN'T A SOLID PORTION OF OUR COMPANY SALES TO OUR OWN EMPLOYEES?

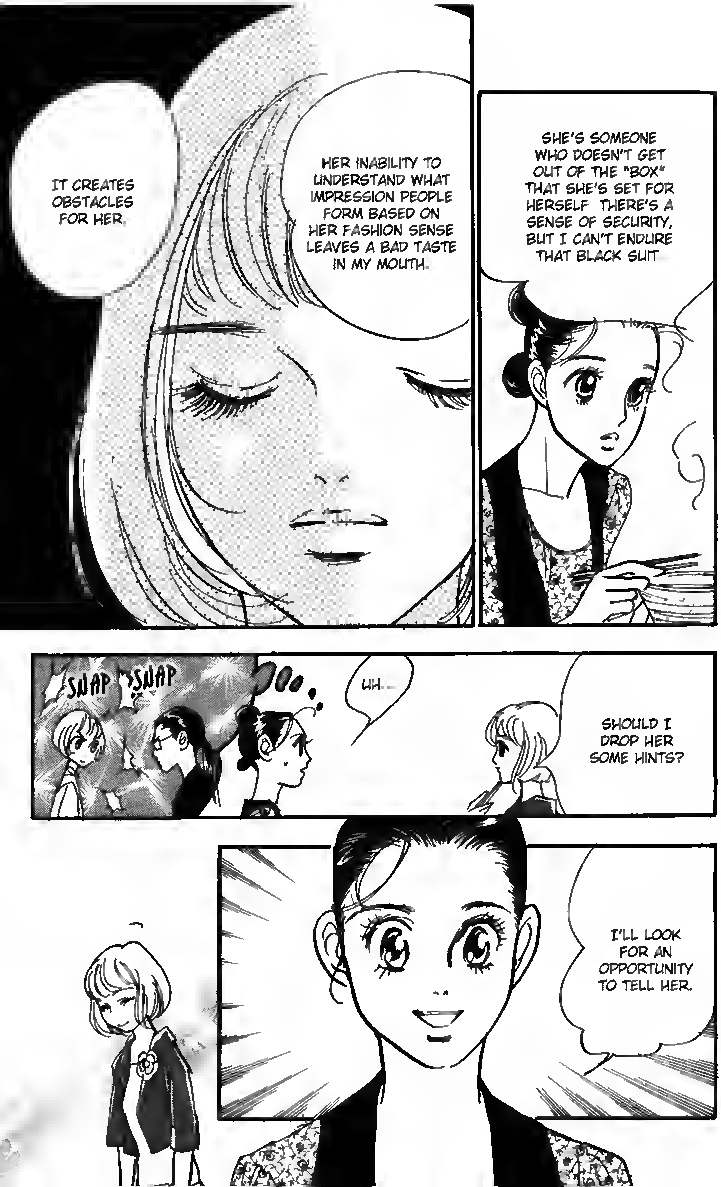

THERE IS A PARTICULAR TIMING BETWEEN WHEN A TREND IS AT THE HEIGHT OF FASHION
THE TREND IS SET
The Height of Fashion
TO WHEN IT TRICKLES DOWN TO THE LOWEST POINT
LATER
SO IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT PERIOD, YOU CAN GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE STILL WEARING SEASONAL ITEMS..
EVEN LATER
Fashion Low


SHOCK!


I MEAN, YOU WEAR SEASONAL CLOTHES EVERY DAY!
HO. HOW DO YOU AFFORD YOUR CLOTHES, THEN?


CLOTHES THAT HAVE A TASTE OF THE LATEST TREND CAN ONLY BE WORN 2-3 YEARS WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE...
WHETHER THEY'RE AT NET PRICE, OR IF I HAVE TO RESERVE THEM IN ADVANCE, I BUY CLOTHES THAT MAKE ME SAY, "THIS IS IT!" WITH THE RIGHT TIMING...

I PLAN ON GETTING MY HANDS ON SEASONAL ITEMS EARLY FROM NOW ON
SOMEHOW OR OTHER, SINCE I'M A BUYER ♡
OOOOOH...
HOWEVER, IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE IN YOUR SELECTION, YOU CAN WASTE A RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY,
SO BUYING CLOTHES IS A SERIOUS BATTLE OF WITS!
GOCHISO-SAMA!
I love Western clothes!
THAT'S ADMIR-ABLE!
IT'D BE NICE IF SHE COULD GET CLOTHES THAT SUIT HER POSITION A BIT MORE..
OKA-SAN, TOO...
(T/N: A phrase said when someone finishes their meal.)


IT CREATES OBSTACLES FOR HER.
HER INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IMPRESSION PEOPLE FORM BASED ON HER FASHION SENSE LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH.
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T GET OUT OF THE "BOX" THAT SHE'S SET FOR HERSELF. THERE'S A SENSE OF SECURITY, BUT I CAN'T ENDURE THAT BLACK SUIT.
SNAP
SNAP
UH...
SHOULD I DROP HER SOME HINTS?
I'LL LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HER.

TO PUT IT CLEARLY, WE'RE FREE TO WEAR WHAT WE DO
IT'S UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL—
THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO BUY INTO FASHION ..
YOU MAY WEAR WHAT YOU LIKE, OR WHAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF TALLER, OR EXAGGERATE CERTAIN BODY AREAS
TRUTH BE TOLD, IT'D EVEN BE FINE TO WEAR THE SAME THING EVERY DAY.

IT'S A PRESENTATION OF YOURSELF, AFTER ALL.
HOWEVER!

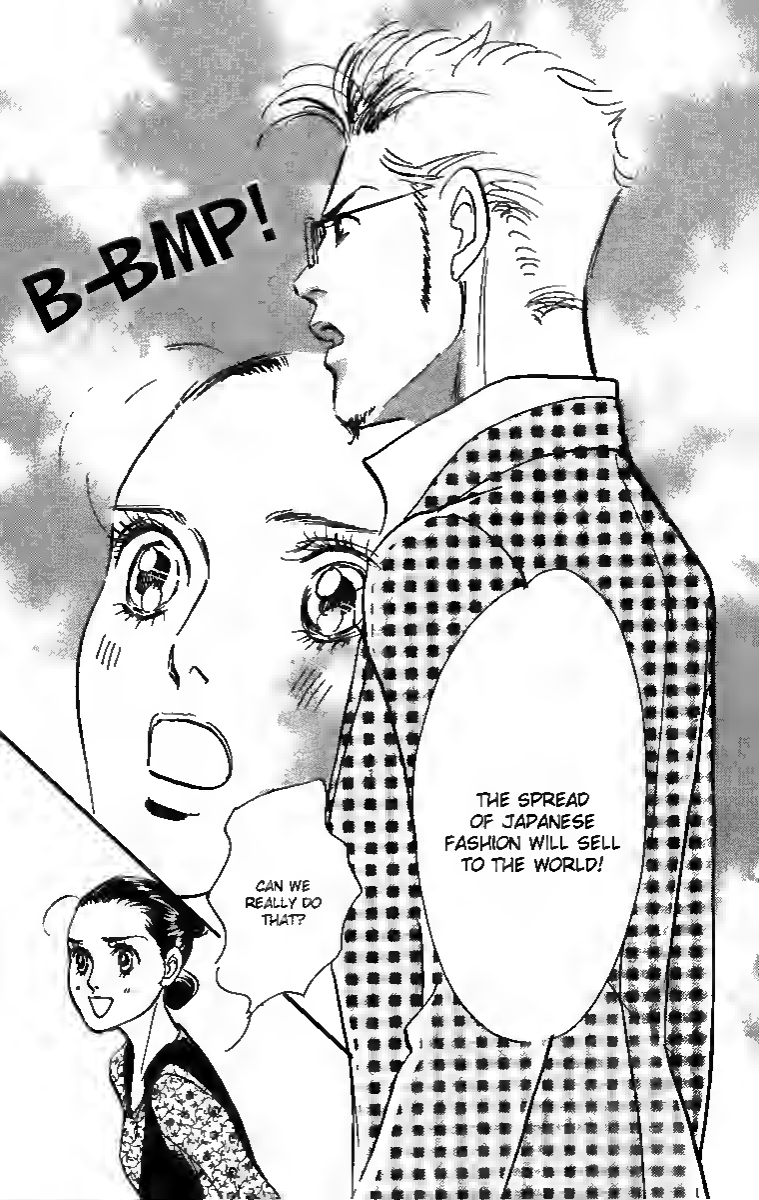
CLOTHES THAT OTHERS ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT WITH A SINGLE GLANCE
WEARING SUCH CLOTHES SHOULD BE PART OF OUR JOB.
Is this alright?
THERE IS ALSO THIS— SUITABLE CLOTHING FOR THE BUYERS OF ECHIZENYA.
CLOTHES THAT SHOW THE PERSONALITY OF ECHIZENYA. CLOTHES THAT ARE FRESH, THAT HAVE A SPARKLE AND A SEASONAL VIGOR
CLOTHES CAN COMMUNICATE THAT IMMEDIATELY!
Yes!
WHO ARE YOU?
Um.

I JUST GOT BACK—
AMANO!
15 MINUTE CONFERENCE, RIGHT NOW!
OKAY!
HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE TWO ROOKIES?
IT'S BEEN A VICTORY SO FAR
THE MISTAKES MADE BY MY TEAM ARE SHARPLY DECREASING.
HA HA HA...

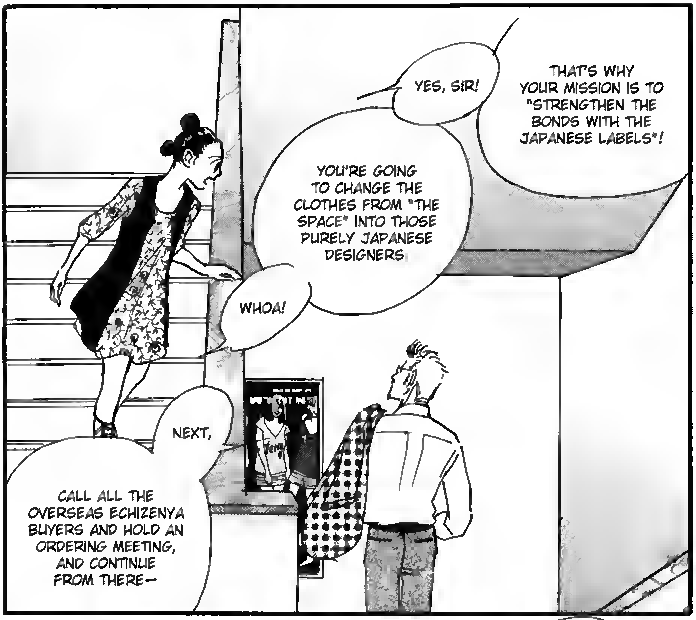
"STRENGTHEN THE BONDS WITH JAPANESE DESIGNERS."
IF YOU'RE ALRIGHT THEN, WILL YOU PUT YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT INTO THIS JOB? MY TEAM IS ALREADY—
Ha ha
I SEE
JBL
YUP.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SELL WELL, BUT..
HA HA HA
ECHIZENYA— WE— AREN'T WE DOING REALLY WELL? THAT'S THE STORY

NOT FOR A RECESSIVE JAPAN...
BUT ON OUR RECENT TRIP TO PARIS, IT WAS TERRIBLE
THE BIG HOUSE DESIGNERS AND THE NOTORIOUS BUYERS WERE ALL ASKING, RIGHT?
WHAT IS COMING OUT NEXT FOR THE TOKYO STREETS?
WHO IS THE JAPANESE DESIGNER THAT ECHIZENYA IS BACKING?
THE JAPAN BRAND OVERSEAS HAS SECURED AN UNSHAKABLE SOCIAL STATUS
WE'RE BECOMING A HOT TOPIC
WE'RE ON EQUAL GROUND.
WE CAN SELL OVERSEAS.

SELLING— IN EUROPE...?
ECHIZENYA—?
EXACTLY
WE'LL BUY THE CLOTHES IN JAPAN AND SELL THEM IN EUROPE
UH.. UM
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHERE THE CUSTOMER IS, IF WE'RE DOING THE SELLING.

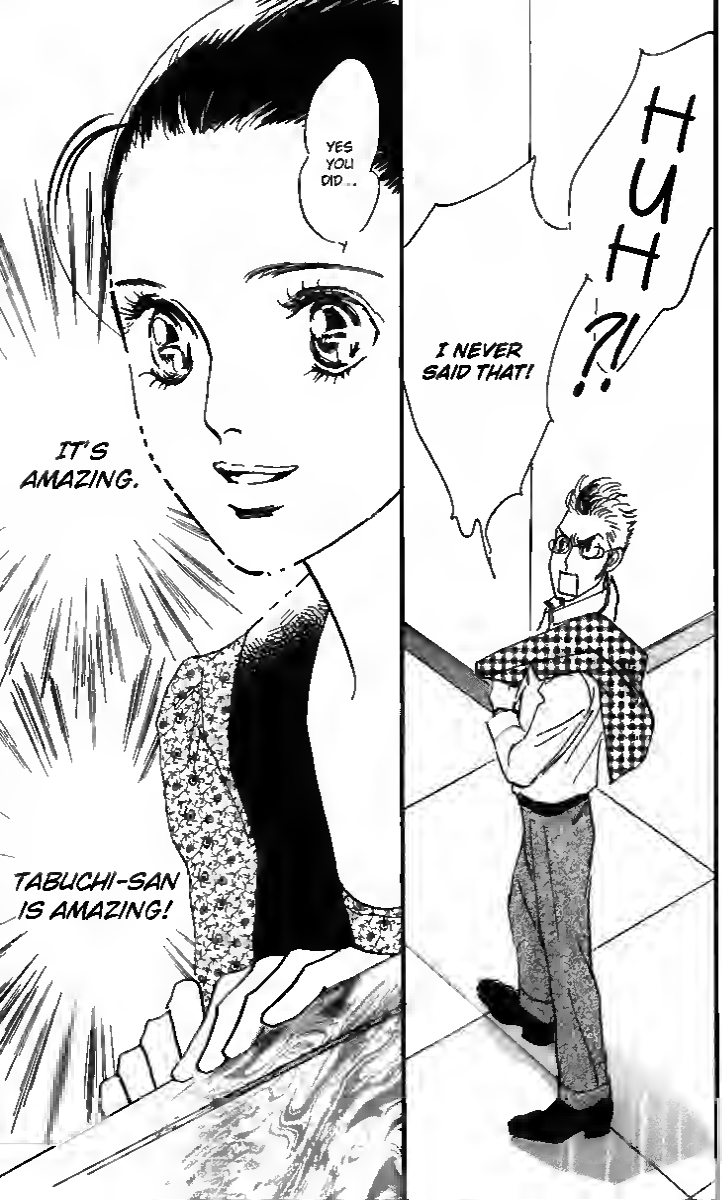

B-BMP!
THE SPREAD OF JAPANESE FASHION WILL SELL TO THE WORLD!
CAN WE REALLY DO THAT?

EH?!!
SWING!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?!
HUH?!
DID I EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
DON'T YOU ALWAYS SAY IT?
"SELL AN UNBLEMISHED JAPAN!"
SHIIIIT!
I'M OVER THIS.
I GUESS SO? I THINK THAT WAS IT...?
UH.
I'm so sorry
YOU SAID IT! NOW WE'RE DOIN' IT!
"MATSUKOSHI DOMESTIC" WAS YOUR WORK, AFTER ALL!
WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW?

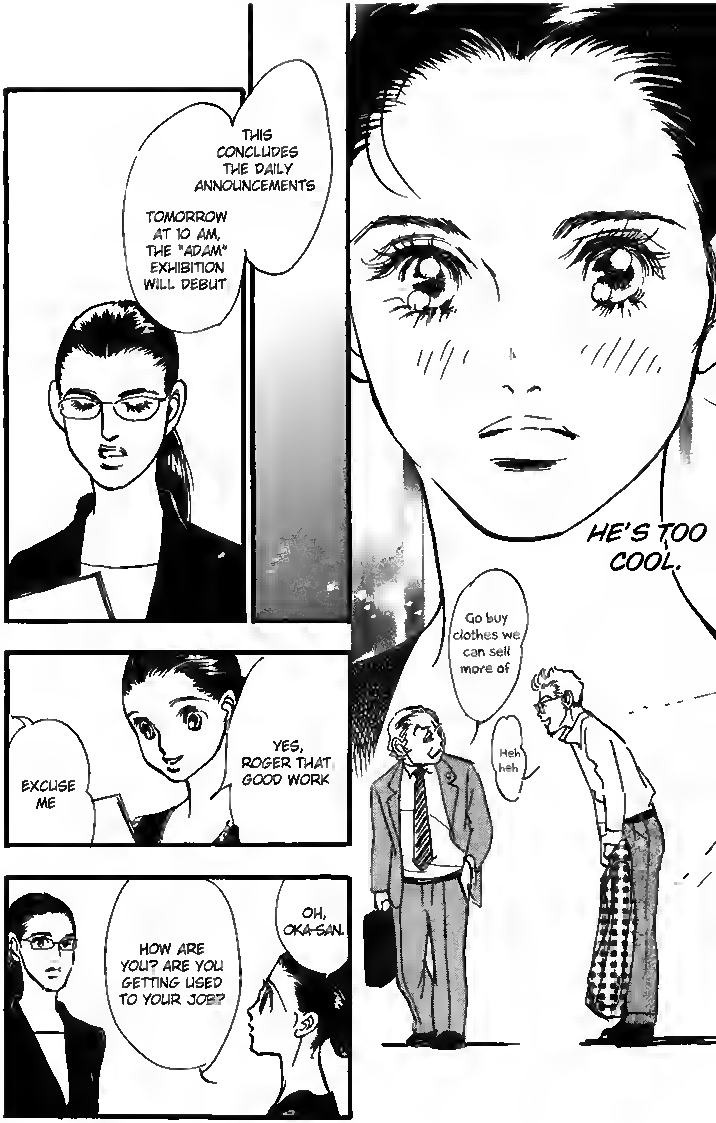

THAT'S WHY YOUR MISSION IS TO "STRENGTHEN THE BONDS WITH THE JAPANESE LABELS"!
YES, SIR!
YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE CLOTHES FROM "THE SPACE" INTO THOSE PURELY JAPANESE DESIGNERS.
WHOA!
NEXT,
CALL ALL THE OVERSEAS ECHIZENYA BUYERS AND HOLD AN ORDERING MEETING, AND CONTINUE FROM THERE--

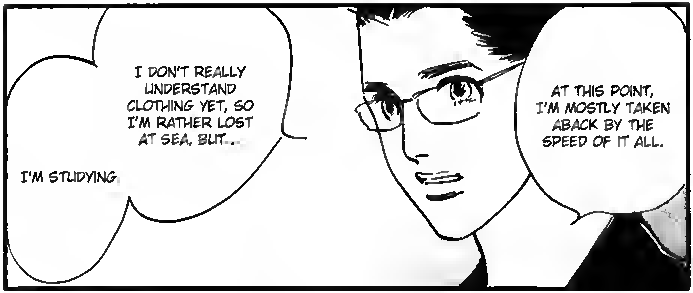
WE'RE GOING TO SET ECHIZENYA AS THE BASE FOR THE JAPANESE MODE.

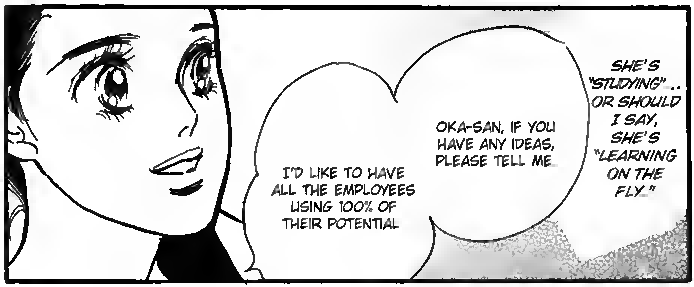
MOVE OUT!
UM!
YES, SIR!
YOU'VE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE,
SO IS THIS YOUR DREAM COME TRUE?


HUH?!
I NEVER SAID THAT!
YES YOU DID..
IT'S AMAZING.
TABUCHI-SAN IS AMAZING!

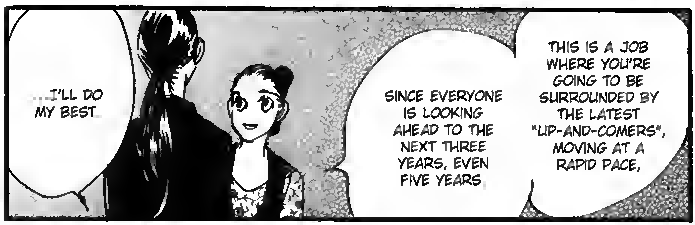
HE MAKES THINGS HAPPEN.
HE "DOES" THEM.
HE TURNS DREAMS INTO REALITY.


THIS CONCLUDES THE DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
TOMORROW AT 10 AM, THE "ADAM" EXHIBITION WILL DEBUT
HE'S TOO COOL.
Go buy clothes we can sell more of
Heh heh
EXCUSE ME
YES, ROGER THAT GOOD WORK
OH, OKA-SAN.
HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU GETTING USED TO YOUR JOB?

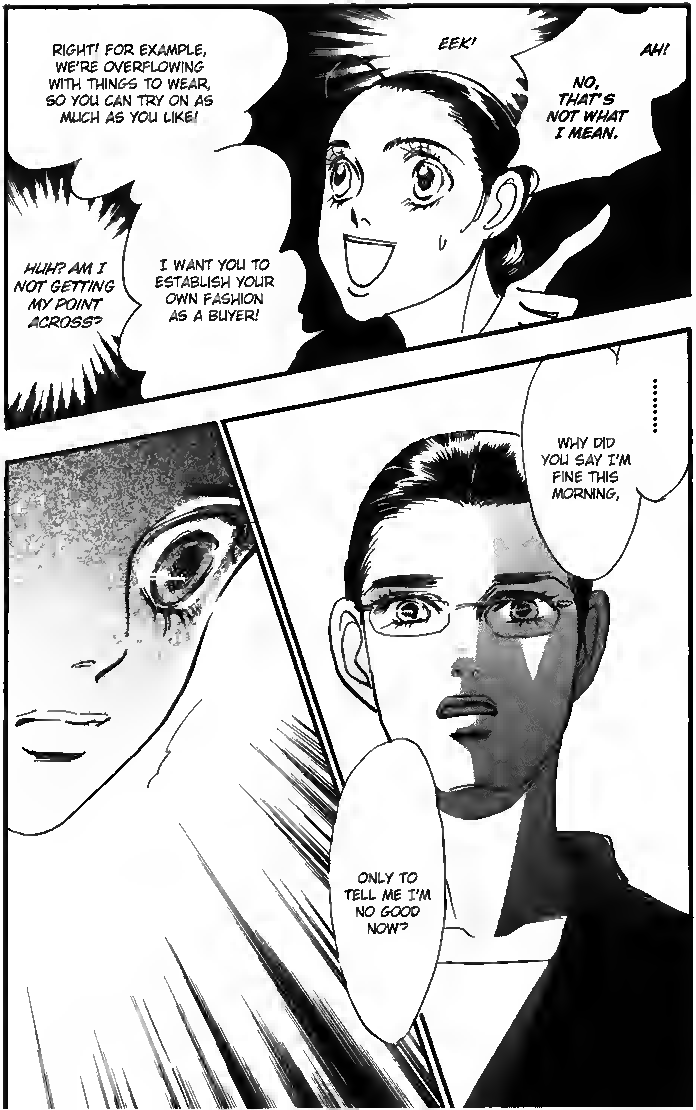

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND CLOTHING YET, SO I'M RATHER LOST AT SEA, BUT...
I'M STUDYING.
AT THIS POINT, I'M MOSTLY TAKEN ABACK BY THE SPEED OF IT ALL.


I'D LIKE TO HAVE ALL THE EMPLOYEES USING 100% OF THEIR POTENTIAL
OKA-SAN, IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, PLEASE TELL ME.
SHE'S "STUDYING"... OR SHOULD I SAY, SHE'S "LEARNING ON THE FLY."

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...
PONDER.. IS AN IDEA SOMETHING YOU "PONDER"?
YES, MA'AM. I'LL ALSO PONDER PROJECTS.


...I'LL DO MY BEST.
SINCE EVERYONE IS LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT THREE YEARS, EVEN FIVE YEARS.
THIS IS A JOB WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO BE SURROUNDED BY THE LATEST "UP-AND-COMERS", MOVING AT A RAPID PACE.

THIS ISN'T A JOB THAT CONFINES YOU TO A BOX, IT'S A JOB THAT GETS YOU OUT AND ABOUT!
YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO GO AROUND THE FLOORS MORE!
AH~
THIS ISN'T A "DO YOUR BEST" THING ..
UM ..!
WELL ~!
I DO SEE THEM.
Oh!
IT ISN'T MY INTENTION TO GO AROUND THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF...


RIGHT! FOR EXAMPLE, WE'RE OVERFLOWING WITH THINGS TO WEAR, SO YOU CAN TRY ON AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
EEK!
AH!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
HUH? AM I NOT GETTING MY POINT ACROSS?
I WANT YOU TO ESTABLISH YOUR OWN FASHION AS A BUYER!
.....
WHY DID YOU SAY I'M FINE THIS MORNING,
ONLY TO TELL ME I'M NO GOOD NOW?

YIIIIIKES~
I'VE DONE IT NOW~!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO TELL ME IN THE MORNING—
NOT AT ALL, OKA-SAN!
WAI—
I WILL TAKE BETTER CARE OF MY ATTIRE STARTING TOMORROW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

End of Chapter 74

Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

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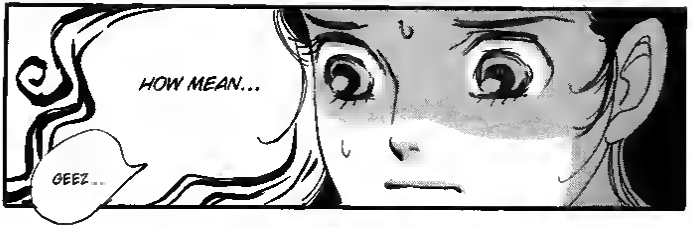
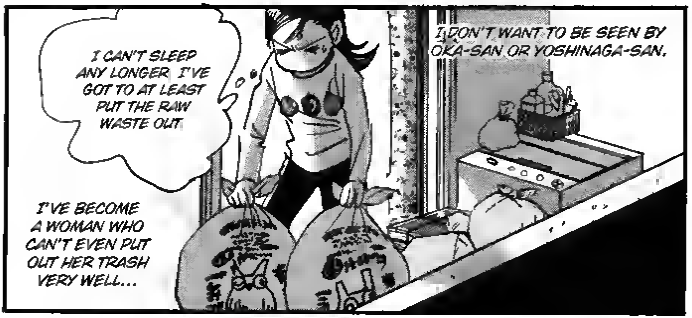
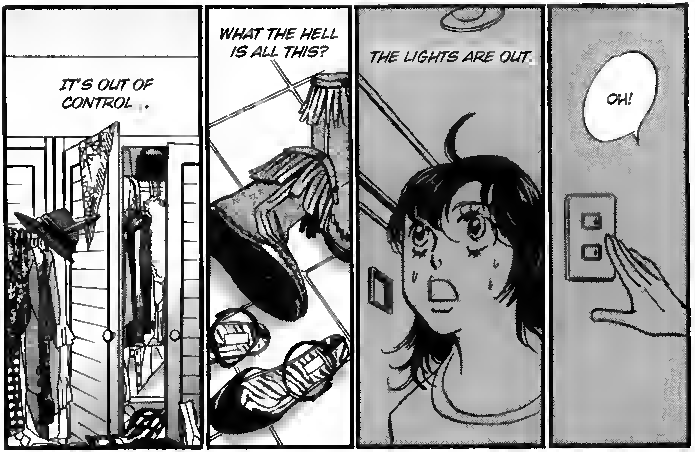
Chapter 75
Real Clothes

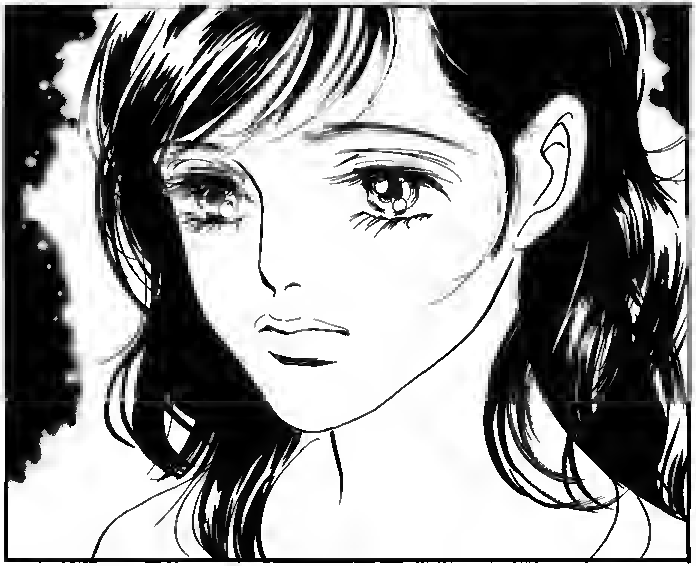
SHE'S RIGHT—!
WHY DID YOU SAY I'M FINE THIS MORNING,
YOU COULDN'T TRUST THAT KIND OF PERSON!
ONLY TO TELL ME I'M NO GOOD NOW?
OKA-SAN!!

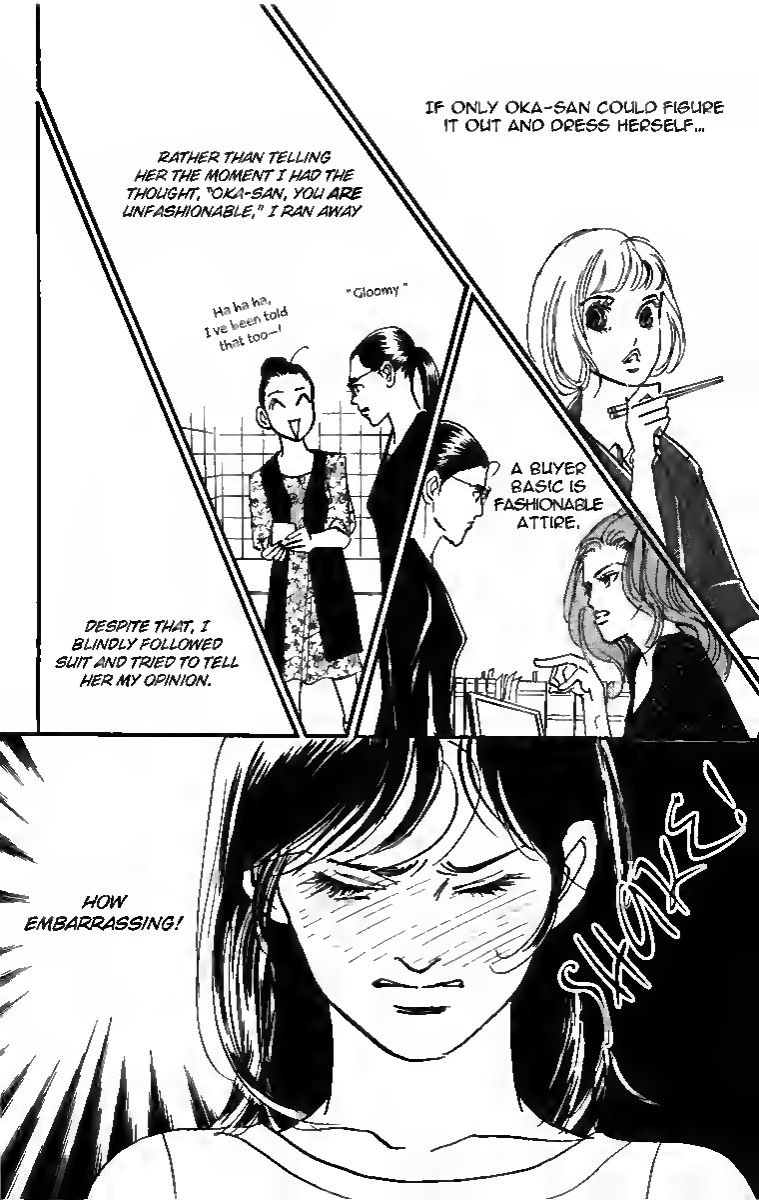
I'M SORRY~!
I'M SORRY~!
.....
UWAH ~!
CRASH!
DASH!
SLI
DE!

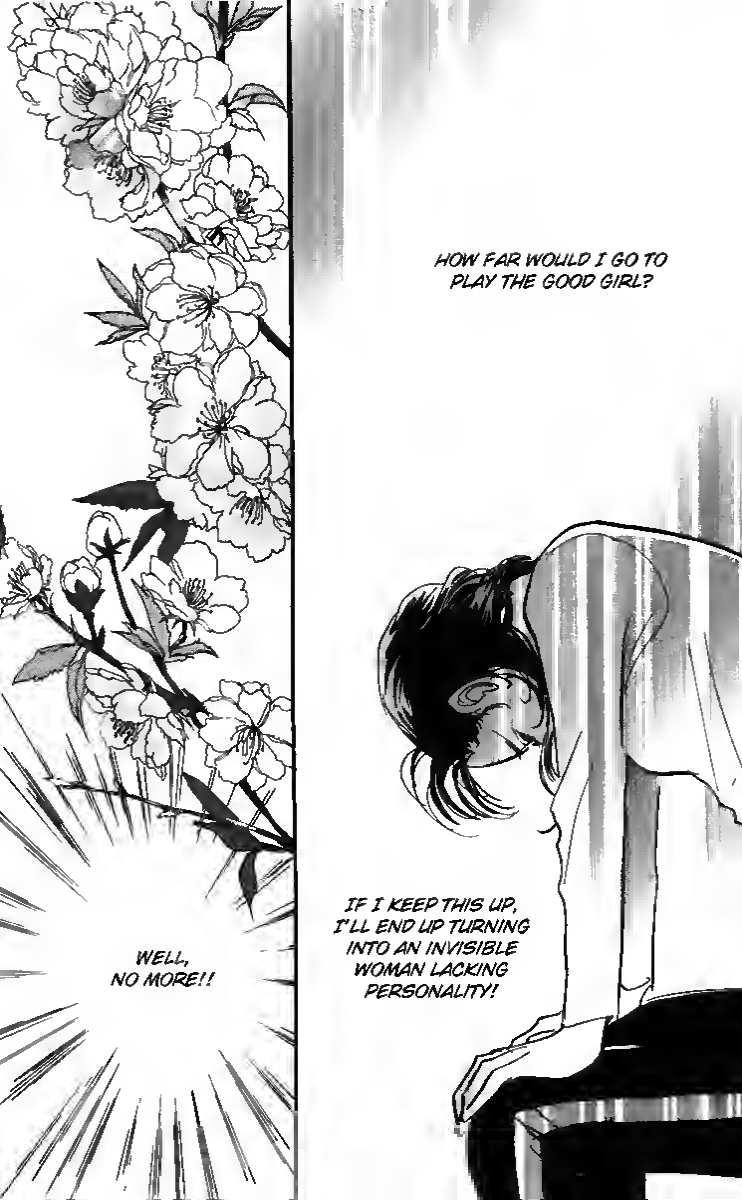

HOW MEAN...
GEEZ...


I CAN'T SLEEP ANY LONGER. I'VE GOT TO AT LEAST PUT THE RAW WASTE OUT.
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN BY OKA-SAN OR YOSHINAGA-SAN.
I'VE BECOME A WOMAN WHO CAN'T EVEN PUT OUT HER TRASH VERY WELL...


IT'S OUT OF CONTROL.
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?
THE LIGHTS ARE OUT.
OH!

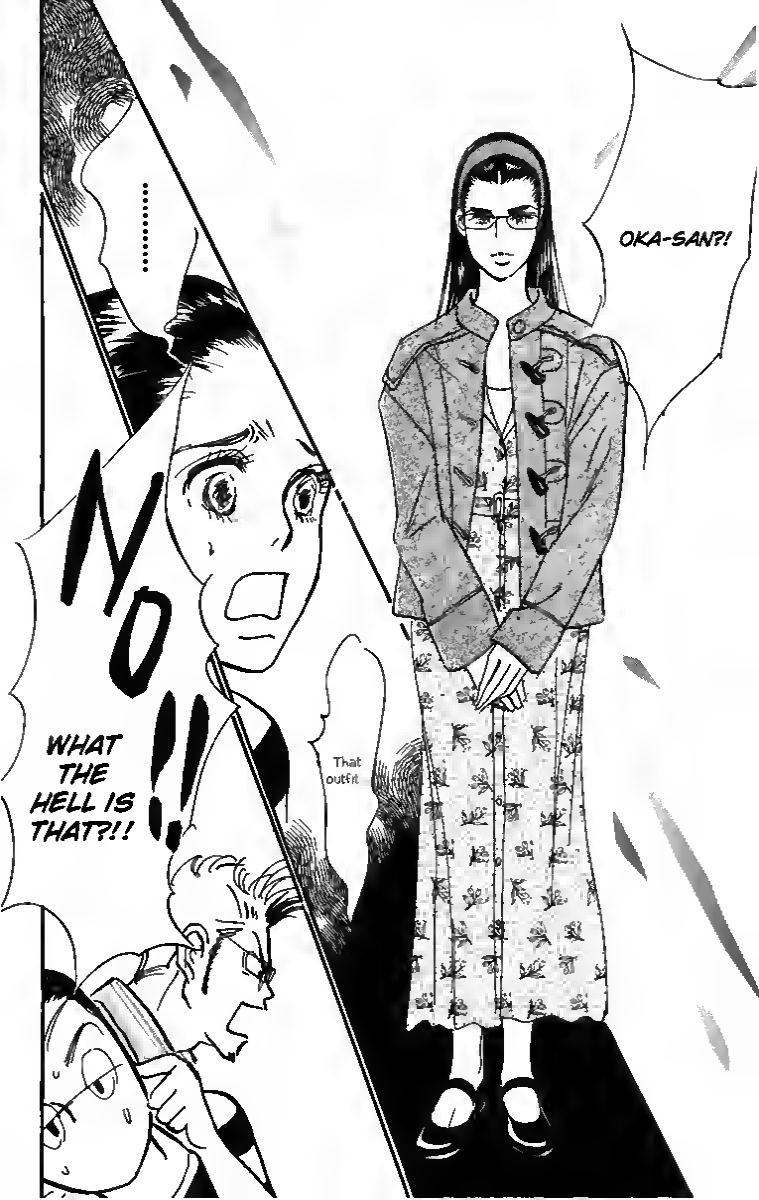


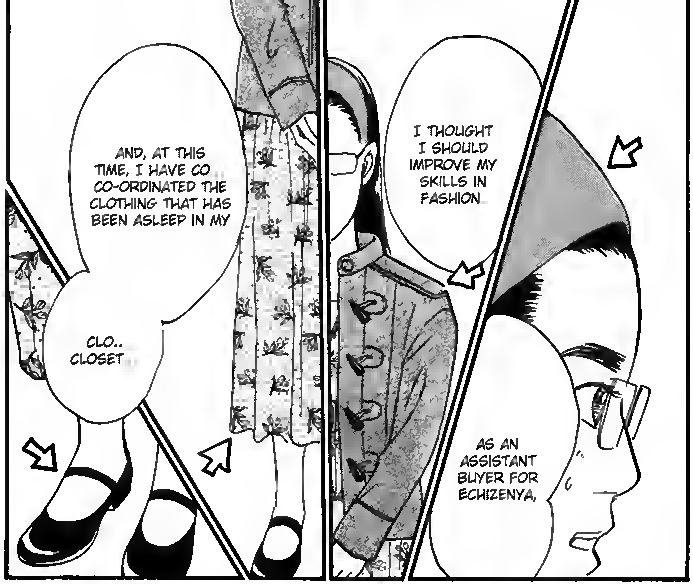

IF ONLY OKA-SAN COULD FIGURE IT OUT AND DRESS HERSELF...
RATHER THAN TELLING HER THE MOMENT I HAD THE THOUGHT, "OKA-SAN, YOU ARE UNFASHIONABLE," I RAN AWAY
Ha ha ha, I've been told that too—!
"Gloomy"
A BUYER BASIC IS FASHIONABLE ATTIRE.
DESPITE THAT, I BLINDLY FOLLOWED SUIT AND TRIED TO TELL HER MY OPINION.
HOW EMBARRASSING!
SHAKE!

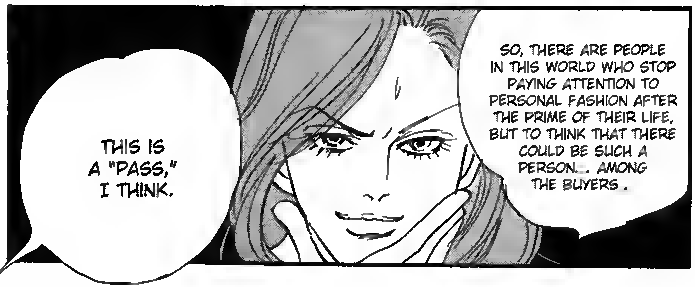

HOW FAR WOULD I GO TO PLAY THE GOOD GIRL?
IF I KEEP THIS UP, I'LL END UP TURNING INTO AN INVISIBLE WOMAN LACKING PERSONALITY!
WELL, NO MORE!!

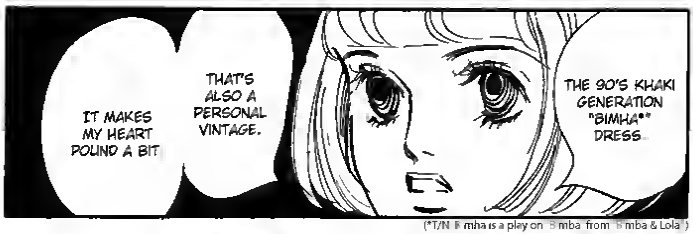
NO!
SHIVER!
IDIOT!
DO IT OVER!
NO!
IF THERE'S NONE, THEN THERE'S NONE!!

YES,
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT...
IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOURSELF CLEAR, IT'LL JUST COMPLICATE THINGS.
WORK IS A BATTLE, RIGHT?
BOSS
WHY DID YOU FINISH WITH A LOUD "NO" LIKE THAT?
RESPECT!
No!
No!
No!
What's up with her?
RIGHT? IT'S WORK, AFTER ALL.
GOOD MORNING.
WHAT?!

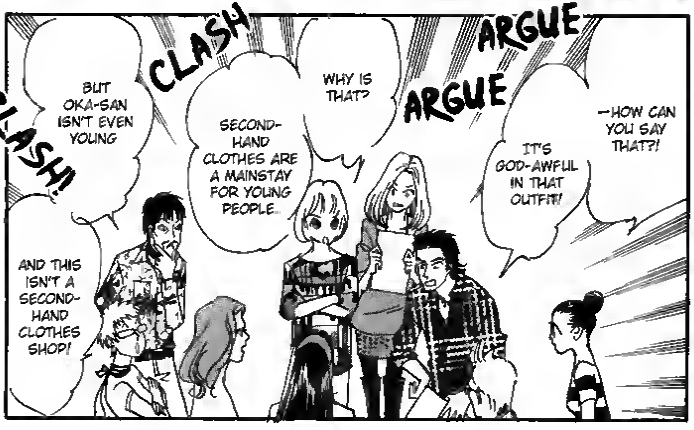

OKA-SAN?!
.....
NO!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!!
That outfit

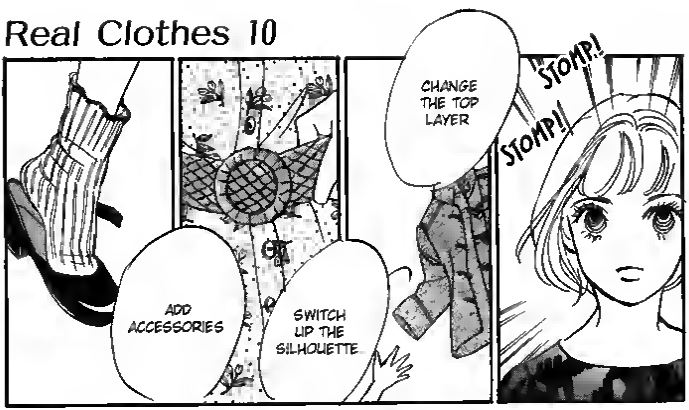

AS AN ASSISTANT BUYER FOR ECHIZENYA,
I THOUGHT I SHOULD IMPROVE MY SKILLS IN FASHION.
CLO.. CLOSET
AND, AT THIS TIME, I HAVE CO CO-ORDINATED THE CLOTHING THAT HAS BEEN ASLEEP IN MY


SO, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO STOP PAYING ATTENTION TO PERSONAL FASHION AFTER THE PRIME OF THEIR LIFE, BUT TO THINK THAT THERE COULD BE SUCH A PERSON... AMONG THE BUYERS.
THIS IS A "PASS," I THINK.

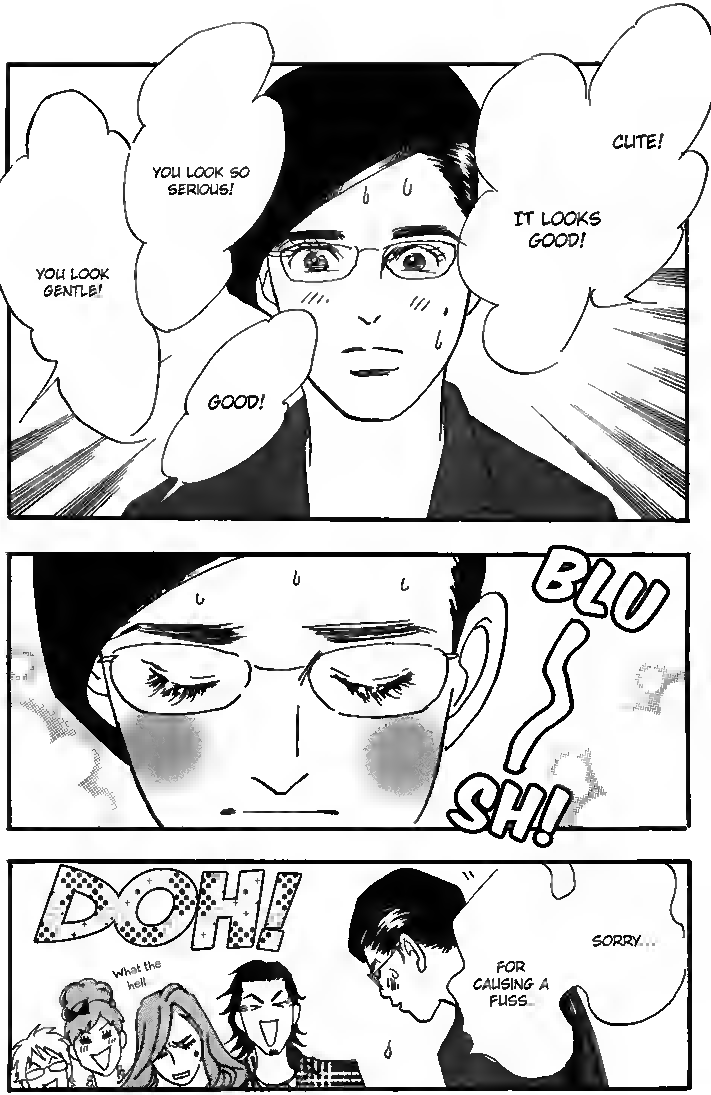


(*T/N: Bimha is a play on Bimba from Bimba & Lola.)



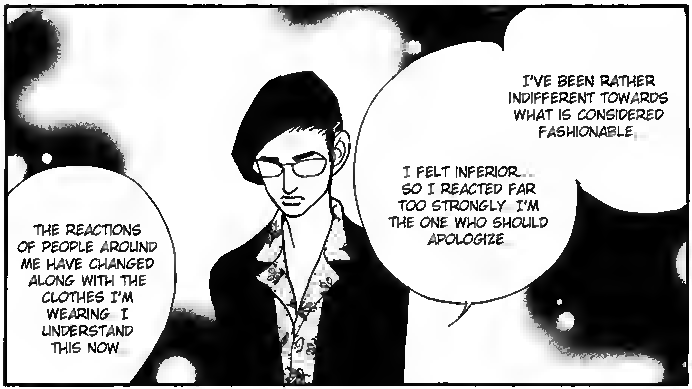

ADD ACCESSORIES
SWITCH UP THE SILHOUETTE
CHANGE THE TOP LAYER
STOMP!
STOMP!

HOW ABOUT THIS?!
OO
H!
PASS!


CUTE!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS!
YOU LOOK GENTLE!
GOOD!
BLU
SH!
DOH!
What the hell
SORRY...
FOR CAUSING A FUSS...

AH,
YES.
THAT DRESS IS FAB
JAPANESE?
NO~ YOU'RE DIFFERENT NOW THAT YOU'RE A BUYER~
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
WHAT? OKA-SAN? I'D HAVE NEVER GUESSED
OKA-SAN, WANT TO TRY GOING AROUND THE SALES FLOOR?
BLUSH
Borrowed cardigan

I APOLOGIZE FOR SAYING SOMETHING IRRESPONSIBLE YESTERDAY
NO,

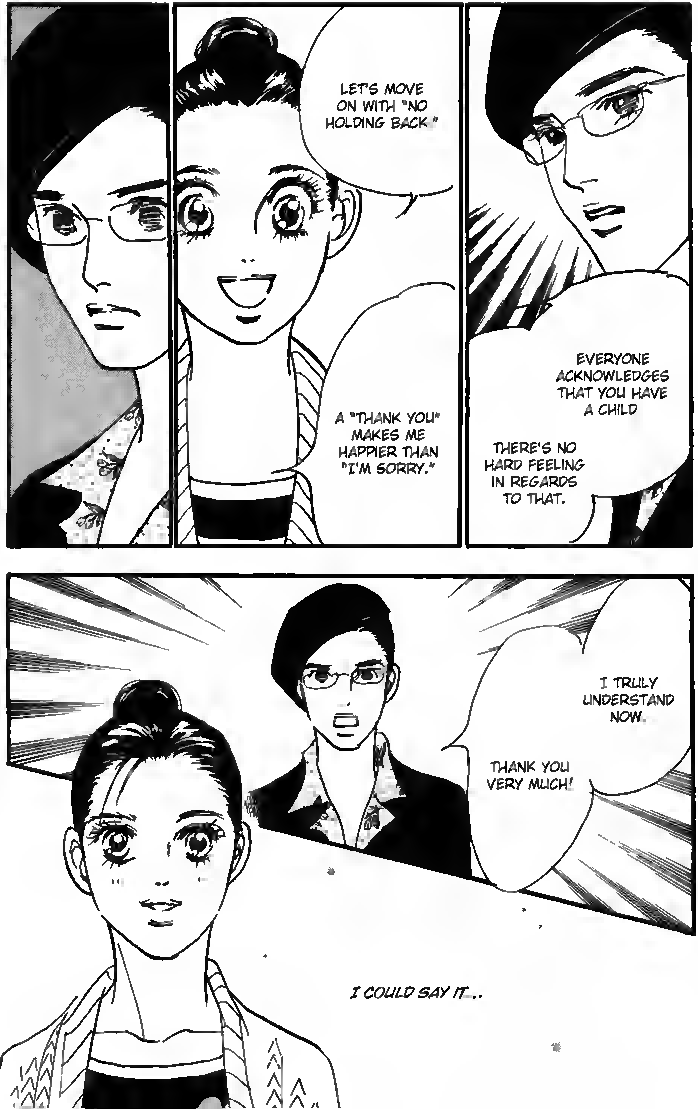

I'VE BEEN RATHER INDIFFERENT TOWARDS WHAT IS CONSIDERED FASHIONABLE.
I FELT INFERIOR... SO I REACTED FAR TOO STRONGLY. I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
THE REACTIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND ME HAVE CHANGED ALONG WITH THE CLOTHES I'M WEARING. I UNDERSTAND THIS NOW.

BUT, IN THE END,
ECHIZENYA'S CUSTOMERS AND ECHIZENYA'S CLOTHES ARE SO OVERLY-BRILLIANT, I GET COLD FEET
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO THINKS, "IT'S ALRIGHT TO WEAR ALL-BLACK." OR "PLAY IT SAFE,"
THIS IS A TALL HURDLE.
I SEE HOW IT IS ..
This cardigan would look good on you!
So extravagant?!

I'll pay more attention to the needs of the customers...
I'll take this...
Echizenya is a tall hurdle. If there are a lot of people who think that way,
then Echizenya might be letting those customers slip by.

(*T/N "Golden Week" usually falls on the first week of May and has four consecutive holidays, so most people take the whole week off from work. "Home visits" take place at the beginning of the school year and involve teachers visiting the homes of their students.)

I'M SORRY. I KNOW IT'S A BUSY TIME WITH THE SUMMER BATTLE PREPARATIONS...
OF COURSE! I UNDERSTAND.
SHOT...
UM.
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU AT THIS POINT.
AFTER GOLDEN WEEK*, MY CHILD'S HOME VISIT* WILL BE DECIDED, SO MAY I HAVE THAT DAY OFF?
AH!
ここからは売り場です
BEYOND THIS DOOR IS THE SALES FLOOR
OKA-SAN...
IT DOES NO GOOD TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT THIS...


LET'S MOVE ON WITH "NO HOLDING BACK."
A "THANK YOU" MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN "I'M SORRY."
EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU HAVE A CHILD
THERE'S NO HARD FEELING IN REGARDS TO THAT.
I TRULY UNDERSTAND NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I COULD SAY IT...

End of Chapter 75

(*T/N: The "Tokyo Collection" also known as the "Tokyo Girls Collection" is a major fashion show featuring Japanese designers.)

Real Clothes

by Hakimura Satoru

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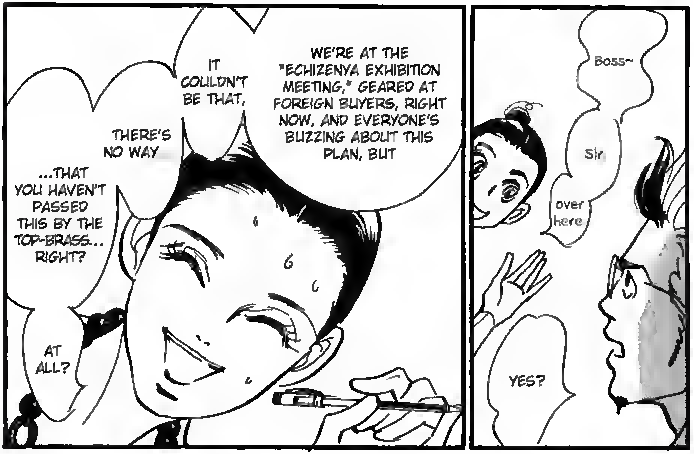
Chapter 76

Real Clothes

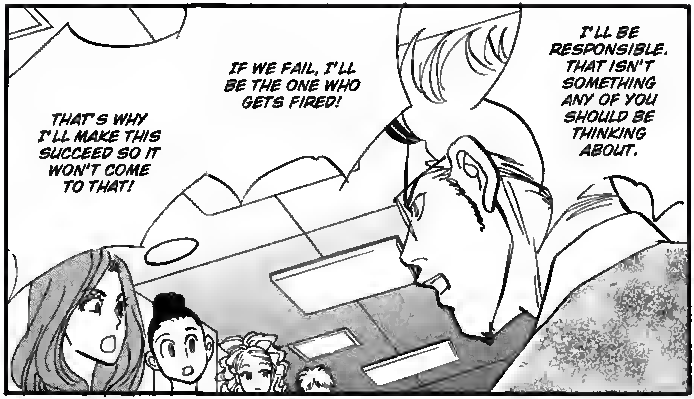
Top Secret Meeting
Outsiders Not Allowed!!
極秘会議中
部外者立入禁止!!
FIRST,
ECHIZENYA WILL MAKE OFFERS TO TWENTY JAPANESE DESIGNERS WHOM WE WILL THEN RECOMMEND TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET WITH CONFIDENCE
YES.
SEND OUT INVITATIONS FOR THE TOKYO COLLECTION TO 100 OF THE FOREIGN BUYERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
YES.
AND ALSO, THINK UP SOME APPEALING PHRASES FOR THE INVITATIONS.
...!
SIR.

YOU ARE THE DESIGNER. THERE IS NO BUDGET.
WHAT'S THE BUDGET FOR DESIGNING THE INVITATIONS?
WHETHER WE FIND ANY DESIGNERS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE...

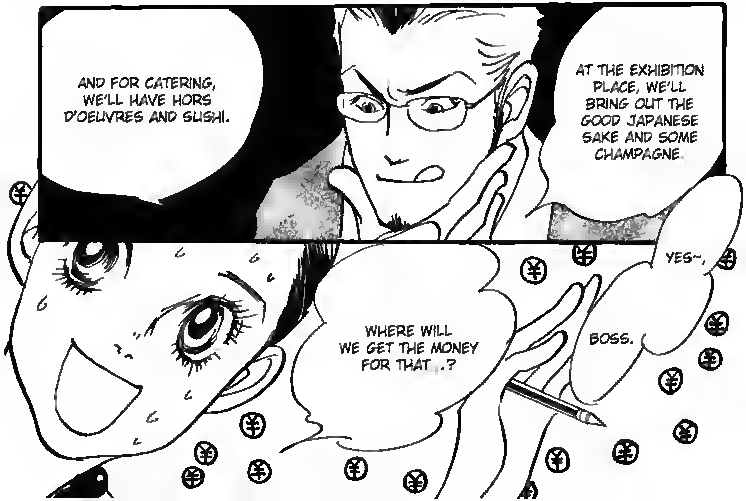
NONE?!!

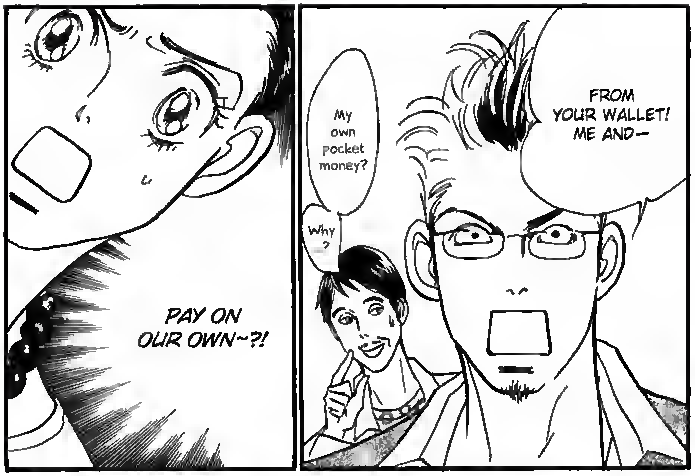

WE'RE AT THE "ECHIZENYA EXHIBITION MEETING," GEARED AT FOREIGN BUYERS, RIGHT NOW, AND EVERYONE'S BUZZING ABOUT THIS PLAN, BUT
IT COULDN'T BE THAT,
THERE'S NO WAY
...THAT YOU HAVEN'T PASSED THIS BY THE TOP-BRASS... RIGHT?
AT ALL?
Boss~
Sir
over here
YES?

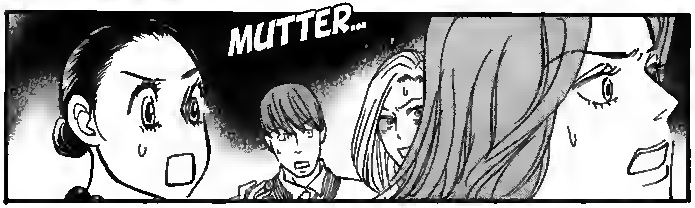
IF WE WERE TO RUN IT BY THE TOP-BRASS, WE WOULDN'T EVEN CATCH THE TAIL END OF WORLD TRENDS!!
OBVIOUSLY!!
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
Obviously... he says
SO THIS IS A GUERRILLA EXHIBITION...
WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF WE FAIL?
AS IF I CARE!
IT'S BECAUSE I'M THINKING OF THE COMPANY THAT I'M DOING THIS
THE...
THEN ARE WE ACTING DIRECTLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMPANY POLICIES?


THAT'S WHY I'LL MAKE THIS SUCCEED SO IT WON'T COME TO THAT!
IF WE FAIL, I'LL BE THE ONE WHO GETS FIRED!
I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE. THAT ISN'T SOMETHING ANY OF YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT.

YES, SIR!
RECORD A VIDEO OF IT!
WE'LL SHOW OFF THE RESPONSE OF THE FOREIGN BUYERS TO THIS EXHIBITION TO THE BIG-SHOTS!


AND FOR CATERING, WE'LL HAVE HORS D'OEUVRES AND SUSHI.
AT THE EXHIBITION PLACE, WE'LL BRING OUT THE GOOD JAPANESE SAKE AND SOME CHAMPAGNE.
YES~, BOSS.
WHERE WILL WE GET THE MONEY FOR THAT..?


PAY ON OUR OWN~?!
Why?
My own pocket money?
FROM YOUR WALLET! ME AND—

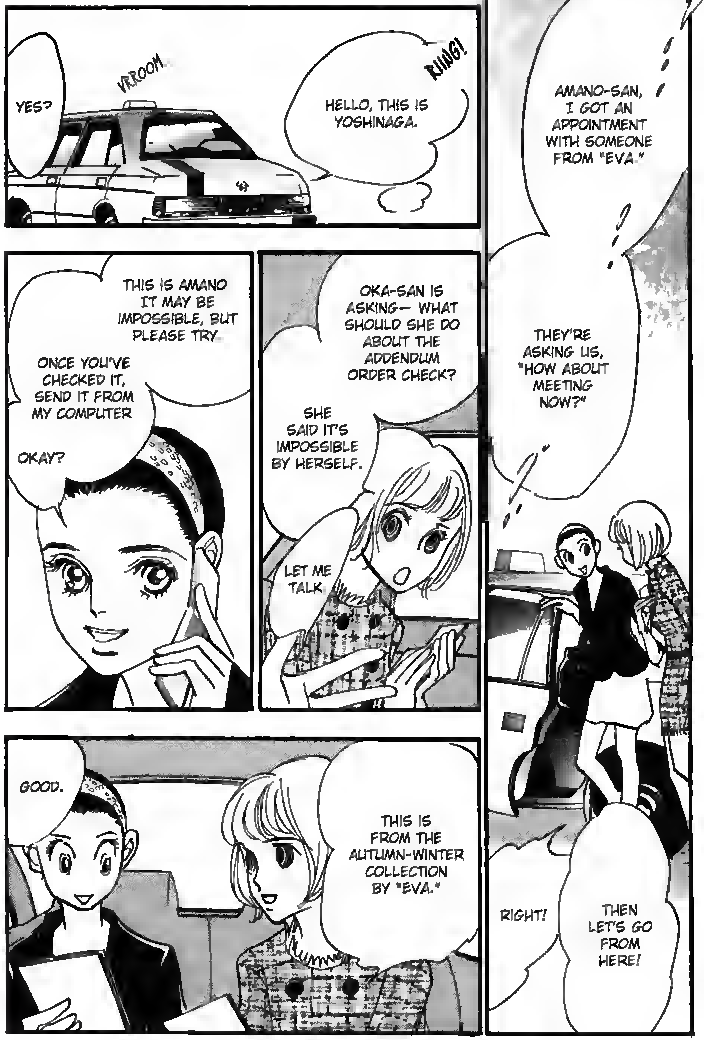

MUTTER...

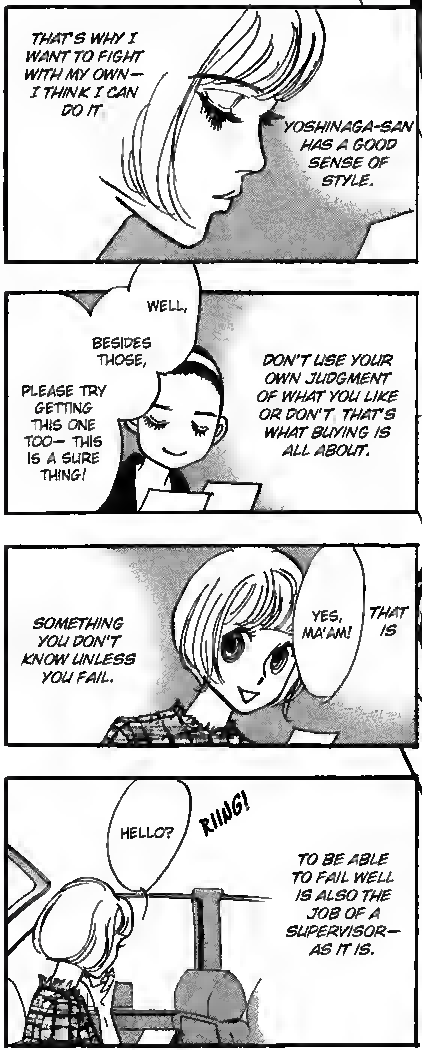
—THEN,
AT THAT POINT, WHAT A COINCIDENCE! THE FOREIGN BUYERS WILL ALL COME OVER FOR A BIT OF FUN ♡ —THAT'S THE GIST OF IT!!
TOP SECRET EXHIBITION
Mock-Up List
RESEARCH MEETING
AT THIS COMPANY,
WE'LL HAVE A "RESEARCH MEETING" WITH OUR BUYERS AND THE UP-AND-COMING DESIGNERS— I'LL CALL IT THAT.

IT WON'T FALL THAT WAY. IT'S A "RESEARCH MEETING," AFTER ALL.
IF WE WERE TO SETTLE BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS AT THAT TIME, THEN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
WAIT!
HOW COULD OUR COMPANY ENGAGE IN SUCH A CONTRACT?
THERE WOULD BE DESIGNERS WHO NORMALLY GO THROUGH INTERMEDIARY FIRMS. IF THAT CAUSES TROUBLE. .!
LEAVE IT AT THAT!
IF ANY NEGOTIATIONS ARE MADE, THAT'D BE BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNERS AND BUYERS.
"ECHIZENYA IS INTERESTING!" "GOOD SELECTION!"
"THEY EXCLUSIVELY SHOW THE CUTTING-EDGE FROM TOKYO."
IT'S FINE IF ECHIZENYA ONLY FURNISHES THE "LOCATION." WHAT I WANT IS "WORD-OF-MOUTH"!

"ECHIZENYA GETS ME EXCITED!" THEY'LL SAY.
THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD BE COMMUNICATING AT THE NEXT EXHIBITION MEETING.
DON'T BE SHORT-SIGHTED.
OKAY? WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A BUZZ.
GOT IT?!
GATHER UP ALL THE CLOTHES THAT WILL CAUSE A STIR.
WE'RE GONNA DISPLAY ONE ITEM SHOWCASING THE SOUL OF EACH DESIGNER.

WE DON'T NEED ANY DECORATIONS, OR DISPLAYS, OR PERFORMANCES. WE'LL BATTLE IT OUT WITH ACTUAL QUALITY!
WE'RE GATHERING UP THE PASSION OF JAPANESE DESIGNERS TO MOVE THE WORLD!


YES?
VROOM
HELLO, THIS IS YOSHINAGA.
RING!
AMANO-SAN, I GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOMEONE FROM "EVA."
THEY'RE ASKING US, "HOW ABOUT MEETING NOW?"
THIS IS AMANO IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT PLEASE TRY.
ONCE YOU'VE CHECKED IT, SEND IT FROM MY COMPUTER
OKAY?
OKA-SAN IS ASKING— WHAT SHOULD SHE DO ABOUT THE ADDENDUM ORDER CHECK?
SHE SAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE BY HERSELF.
LET ME TALK
GOOD.
THIS IS FROM THE AUTUMN-WINTER COLLECTION BY "EVA."
RIGHT!
THEN LET'S GO FROM HERE!


THAT'S WHY I WANT TO FIGHT WITH MY OWN— I THINK I CAN DO IT
YOSHINAGA-SAN HAS A GOOD SENSE OF STYLE.
WELL,
BESIDES THOSE,
PLEASE TRY GETTING THIS ONE TOO— THIS IS A SURE THING!
DON'T USE YOUR OWN JUDGMENT OF WHAT YOU LIKE OR DON'T. THAT'S WHAT BUYING IS ALL ABOUT.
SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU FAIL.
YES, MA'AM!
THAT IS
HELLO?
RIIIIG!
TO BE ABLE TO FAIL WELL IS ALSO THE JOB OF A SUPERVISOR— AS IT IS.
THESE ARE THE ONES I MUST SEE DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION.
THE DYEING IS GORGEOUS.
AND THEN THERE'S THIS JACKET. IT HAS A QUIETNESS THAT CAN'T BE DEFINED...

IT'S LIKE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN HER OWN JUDGMENT.
THAT WAS OKA-SAN AGAIN. I WISH SHE'D STOP ASKING EVERYONE AROUND HER FOR ALL OF THESE THINGS.
THANKS
GIVE IT THE OKAY
.....
RIGHT NOW, I'D RATHER SHE SAY "I'M DOING THIS, SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?"
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT!
YOU THINK SO TOO?!

IF WE CAN SEE THE FLAG WE'RE AFTER,
3
THEN WE HAVE NO TIME TO NAG.
2
THE RESEARCH MEETING IS IN
1
DAYS!!
IT'S NOT COOL TO SAY BEHIND HER BACK WHAT YOU CAN'T SAY TO HER FACE.
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT OKA-SAN WHEN SHE'S NOT PRESENT?
WE'RE GETTING BUSY NOW.
WE DON'T NEED EXTRA CHATTER THAT MAY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON OUR JOB
OH...
YES, MA'AM!!

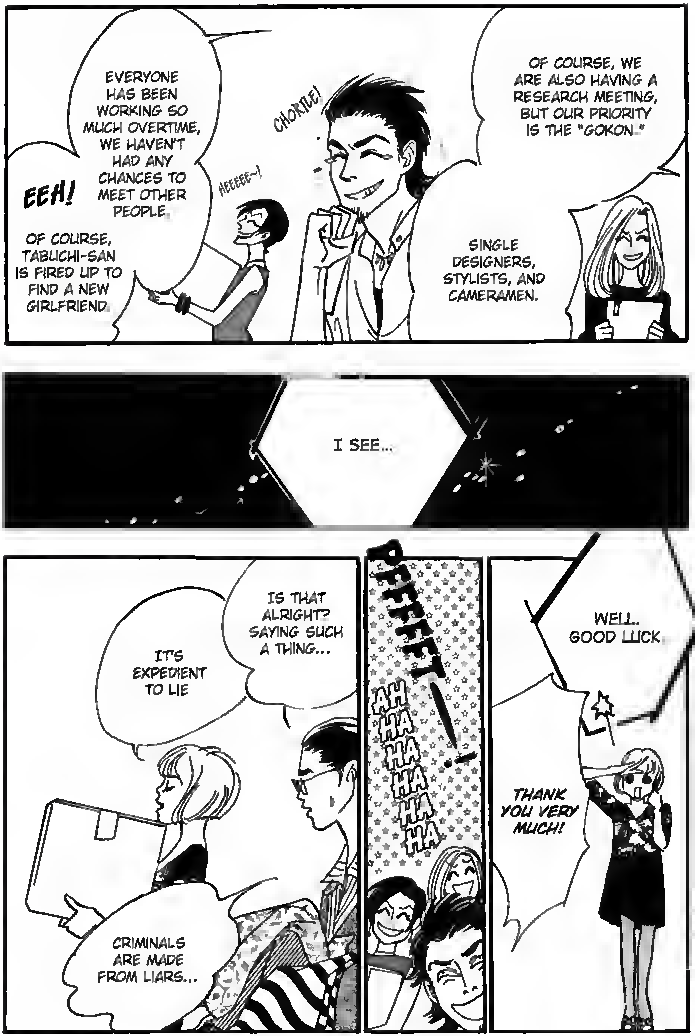
WERE GOING TO EXCITE THE
FOREIGN BUYERS AND FASHION INDUSTRY!
20:00
21:00
Store Closes
START
Fitting
WE CARRY OUT THE GUERRILLA EXHIBITION TODAY!
WE'LL MAKE BOSS'S DREAM COME TRUE!!
ECHIZENYA

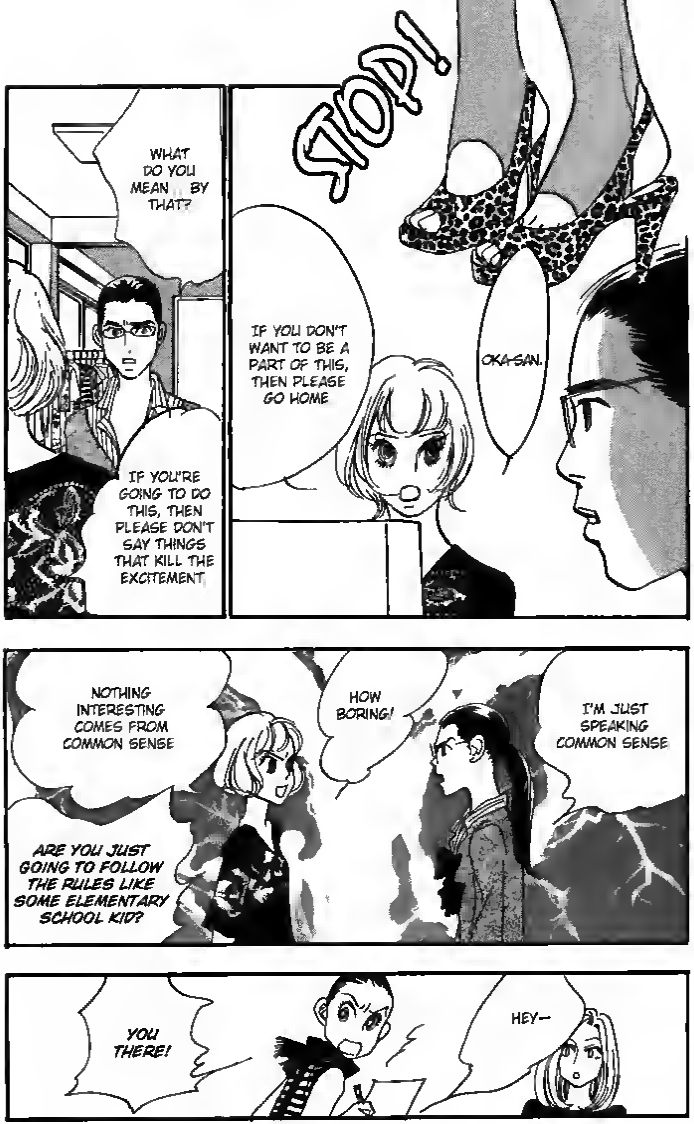
Real Clothes 10

[*T/N. Musui [Dream Water]]

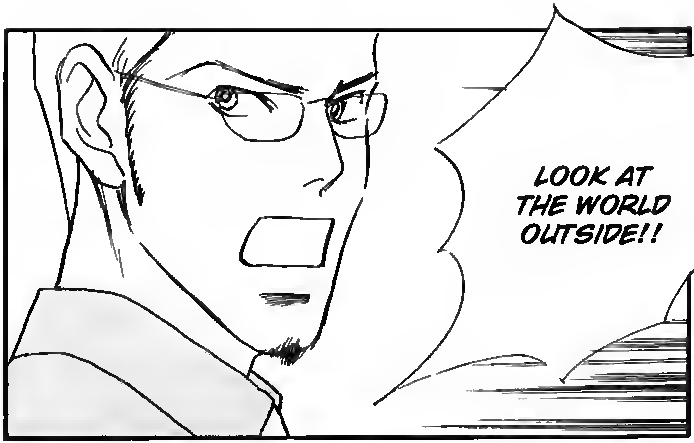
HELLO, THIS IS THE ASSISTANT BUYER, YOSHINAGA, SPEAKING.
WHAT KIND OF "RESEARCHING" ARE YOU DOING? SEND TABUCHI UP HERE
.....
LET ME DO THE TALKING!
THE EXECUTIVE SUITE IS CALLING TO ASK WHAT'S GOING ON
FRET
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
WE ARE HAVING A "GOKON"* TONIGHT!
^^
EH?!
EH?!
TABUCHI-SAN IS CURRENTLY TAKING A SHOWER.

*1) A gokon, commonly called a "mixer" or "singles party" in Western culture, is a social gathering with the purpose of finding dates.


EVERYONE HAS BEEN WORKING SO MUCH OVERTIME, WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY CHANCES TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE.
EEH!
OF COURSE, TABUCHI-SAN IS FIRED UP TO FIND A NEW GIRLFRIEND.
AGGGGG~!
CHORTLE!
OF COURSE, WE ARE ALSO HAVING A RESEARCH MEETING, BUT OUR PRIORITY IS THE "GOKON."
SINGLE DESIGNERS, STYLISTS, AND CAMERAMEN.
I SEE...
IS THAT ALRIGHT? SAYING SUCH A THING...
IT'S EXPEDIENT TO LIE
CRIMINALS ARE MADE FROM LIARS...
PFFFFT...!
WELL.. GOOD LUCK.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!


STOP!
OKA-SAN.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS, THEN PLEASE GO HOME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS, THEN PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS THAT KILL THE EXCITEMENT
I'M JUST SPEAKING COMMON SENSE
HOW BORING!
NOTHING INTERESTING COMES FROM COMMON SENSE
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO FOLLOW THE RULES LIKE SOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID?
HEY—
YOU THERE!

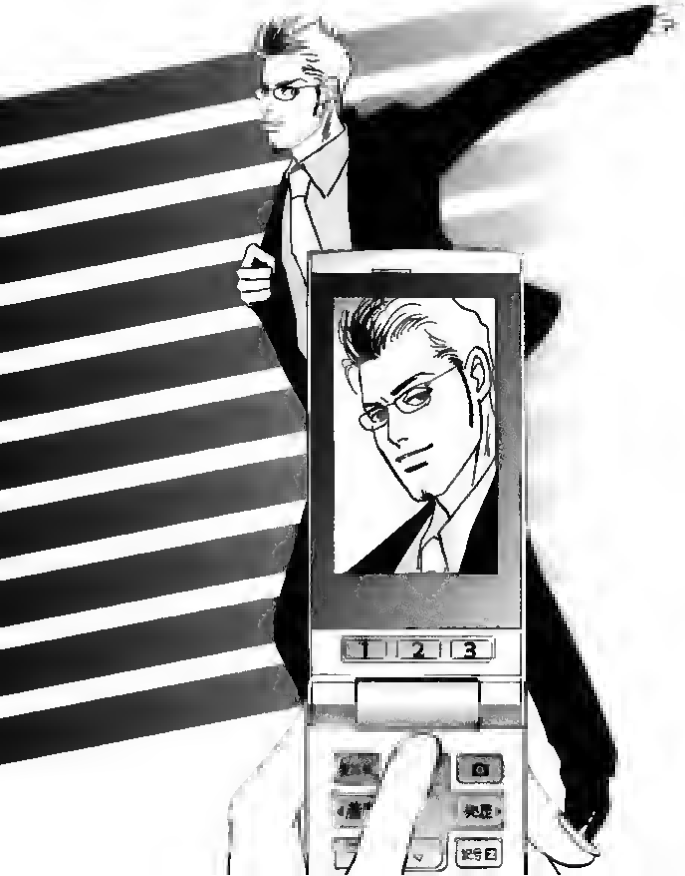
CAT FIGHT!
ALL OF YOU!!
FREE ZE!
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU'LL GET SOMETHING NEW IF YOU BREAK WITH ALL COMMON SENSE!
THEN TRY SAYING SOMETHING NEW! AND WHAT'S WITH THAT SKIRT!
STOP IT, YOU TWO!
IT'S SO UNCOOL!!
LOOK AT THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET!
H&H

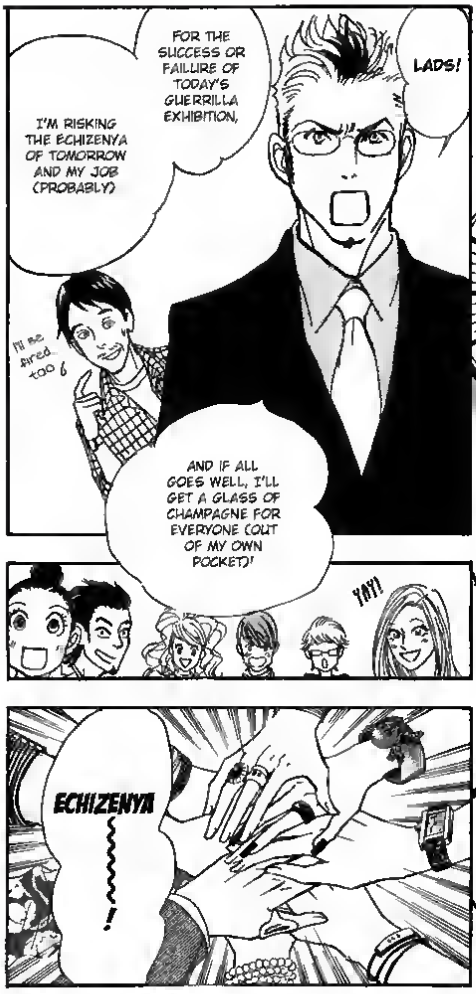

LOOK AT THE WORLD OUTSIDE!!

THE GREATEST POWER NIKO HAD... WAS KINDNESS...
HERE
BOSS'S CHALLENGE STARTS NOW!!
GEEZ
!
MY BACK IS STARTING TO KILL ME
AH
I'VE GOT A HEATING PAD FOR THAT!

Real Clothes

Chapter 77

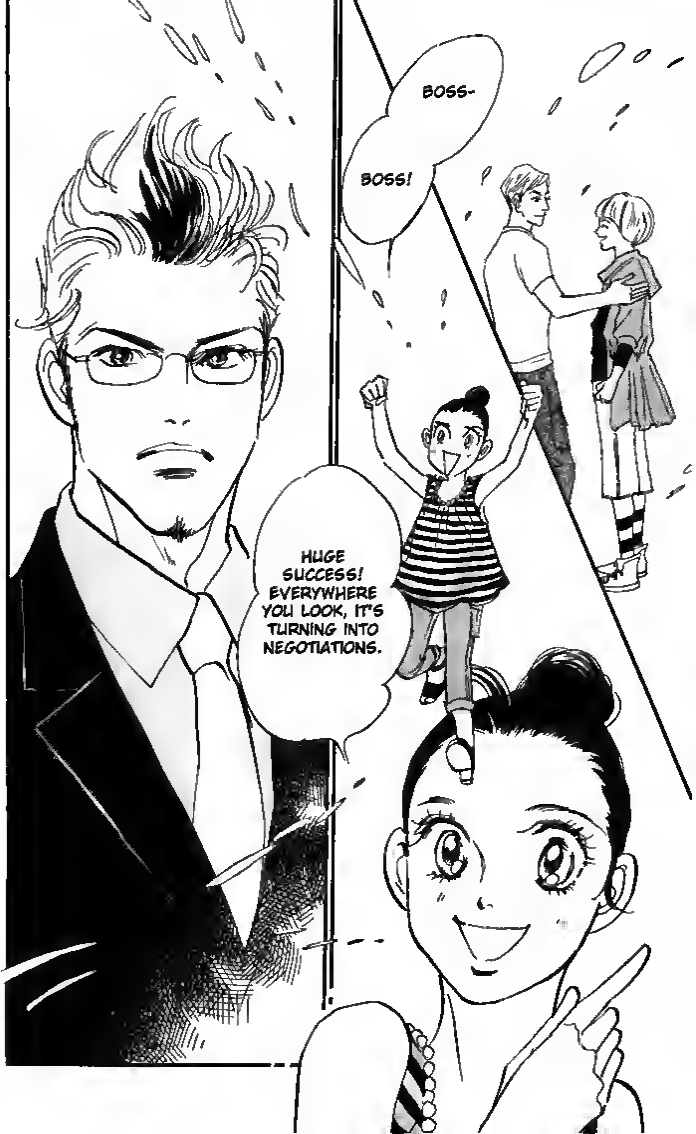



LADS!
FOR THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF TODAY'S GUERRILLA EXHIBITION,
I'M RISKING THE ECHIZENYA OF TOMORROW AND MY JOB (PROBABLY)
I'll be fired too 6
AND IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL GET A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE FOR EVERYONE (OUT OF MY OWN POCKET)!
YAY!
DING DONG DI—NG
TARGET
THE TIME IS NOW 8 00. ECHIZENYA IS NOW CLOSED
WE ASK ALL OUR GUESTS INSIDE THE STORE TO BRING ..
ECHIZENYA

WOO HOO!
BAM!
ECHIZENYA

CHATTER CHATTER
The Space

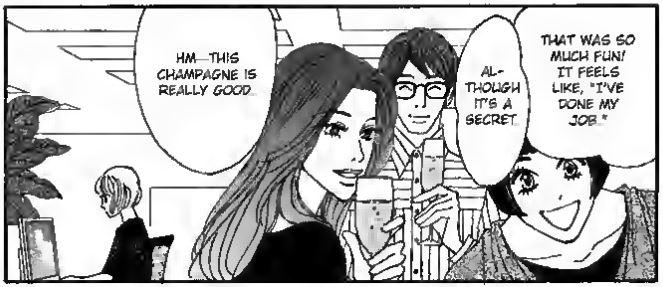
THE BUYERS' SERIOUS FACES!
CAPTURE THEIR EXPRESSIONS— THE SERIOUSNESS ON THE FACES OF THE DESIGNERS
THEIR FACES!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!
I'LL MAKE THEM LOOK COOL. I WAS A FILM STUDIES MAJOR, AFTER ALL.
DELIVERY DAYS? LOTS? LIKE, PUT IN FOR 200 IN THE FALL?
OH.
SHOULDN'T THIS BE MORE IN HERE?
CAN YOU FIX IT?
AH...NO, IF YOU "FIX" IT, THEN IT'LL RUIN IT.


BOSS-
BOSS!
HUGE SUCCESS! EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, IT'S TURNING INTO NEGOTIATIONS.

(*T/N: A formal greeting after a job is completed. Recognizing hard work has been done.)

WE'VE GOT THE CHAMPAGNE! COME ON OVER!
OTSU-KARE!!
CHATTER CHATTER
OTSU-KARE-SAMA !!.
LADIES' 3RD DEPT
THAT WAS VERY WORTHWHILE PLEASE HAVE ANOTHER EVENT LIKE THIS FOR US.
HA HA HA
DEFINITELY! AND WE'LL MAKE IT AT A FAR GRANDER LOCATION.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO IT!

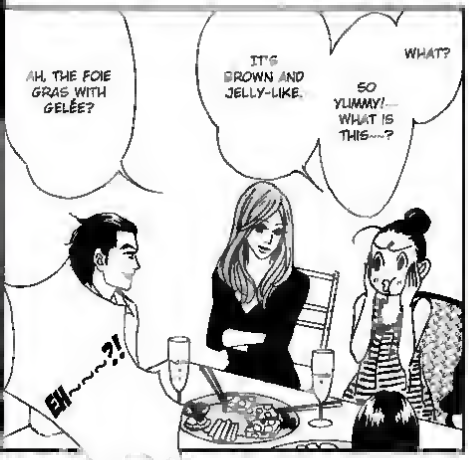
Real Clothes 10



I BROUGHT SOME SNACKS!
OOH AMANO-SAN IS LOOKING AT THEM THROUGH BUYER EYES
AMANO-SAN EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR INCLUSION BE SET FOR THE END OF NEGOTIATIONS
THE "EVA" CLOTHES I HAD INCLUDED ARE AT ZERO.
HERE...

I SNATCHED UP SOME HORS D'OEUVRES!
HEE HEE
IT'S INTERESTING, MAKING WORK FOR OURSELVES!
IT'S TOO INCREDIBLE. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WILL OCCUR NEXT.
OKA-SAN, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CAUTIOUS TYPE.
I... DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH THOUGHT INTO IT...
RINNE
HELLO?
OH

(*T/N: Oka's name is "Oka Asako." If you put the kanji characters together and switch out the "ko" character for the "n" character you get "Okaasan" – which means "mother")

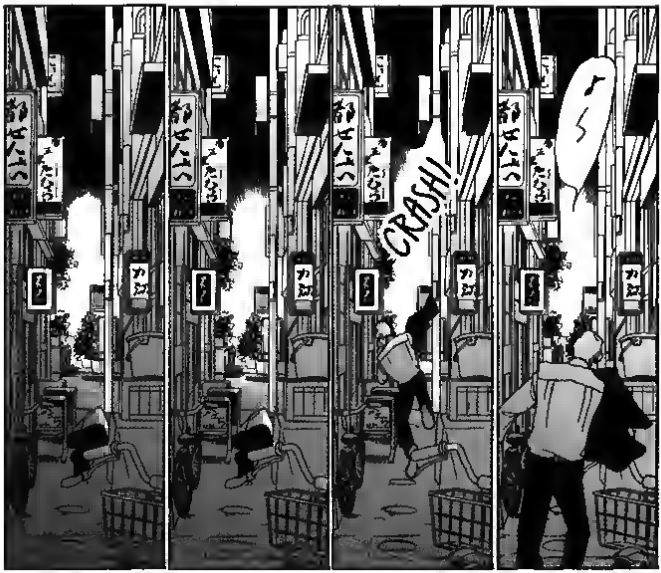


THE TEXTURE IS PERFECT!!
IN ONE YEAR, THERE'S GOING TO BE A HUGE TURNOVER!
TABU-CHAN!
MAMA— IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN—!
AH—YEAH, YEAH, I'VE HEARD IT 10 TIMES ALREADY!
bar
さんらん
SANRAN

UGH
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU LOOKING IN BETTER SHAPE.

UGH
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY DRUNK TOO MUCH! GO HOME ALREADY!

GO~OD NI~GHT, SAKURA-SAN, MAO-CHA~~N
bar
THANK YOU FOR COMING~!
CLATTER

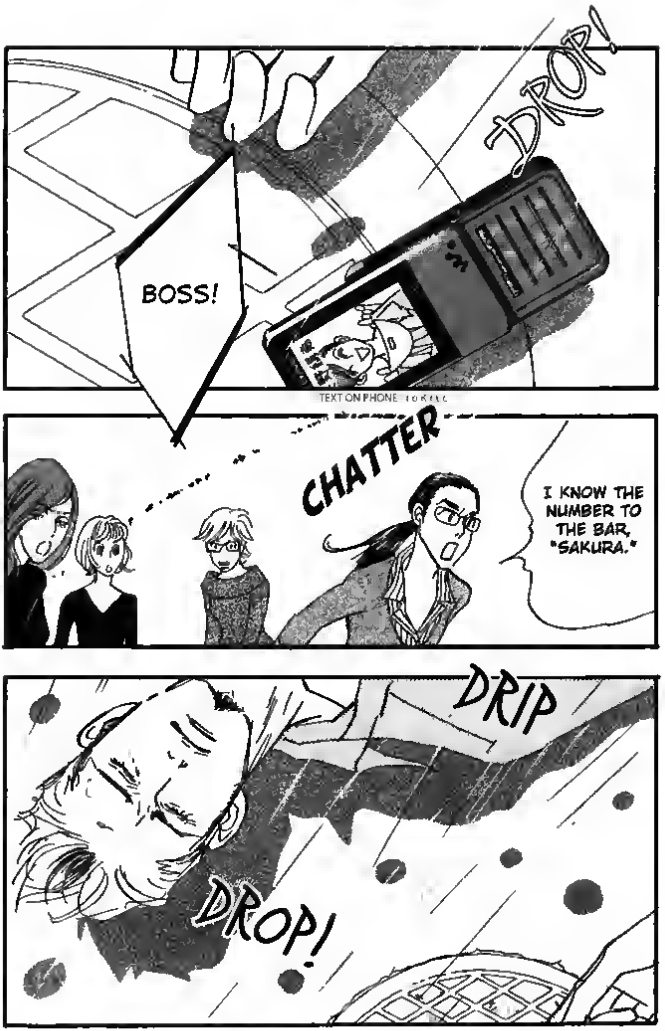

CRASH!!

SHIMAMURA
しまむら

NIKO...
CALL AN AMBULANCE...

CLICK!
I—
CAN'T ASK HIM...
Graduation March
CHAAAA-
CHAA-
CHAA-
CHAA-
HA HA HA
IT'S THE BOSS!
Cha Cha Cha

IT'S STARTED RAINING...
I DRANK TOO MUCH
HELLO!
QUIET DOWN A MINUTE!
WHAT'S UP?
BOSS, WHERE ARE YOU?
BOSS? WHERE ARE YOU? YOU NEED "AN AMBULANCE"?
AN AMBULANCE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
EH

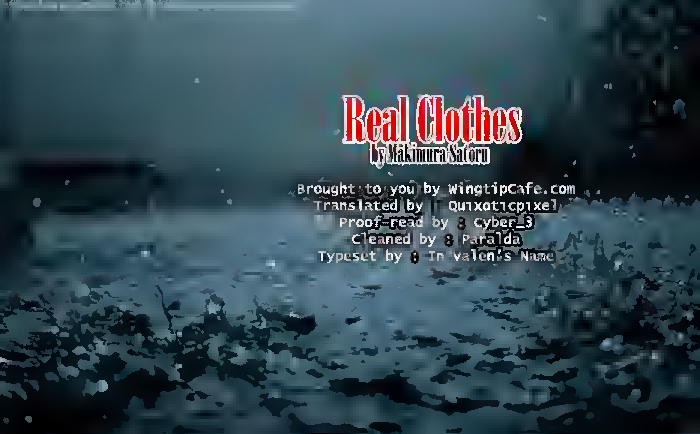

DROP!
BOSS!
TEXT ON PHONE: I'M HERE.
CHATTER
I KNOW THE NUMBER TO THE BAR, "SAKURA."
DRIP
DROP!

I'M... I'M GONNA DIE...
IN A SPOT LIKE THIS?
SHIT...!
MAO-CHAN, GO LOOK FOR TABU-SAN!
HE'S COLLAPSED SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!!

BONJOUR...
IF I HAVE TO DIE,
MOM,
I'M CRAVIN'
STRAW-BERRIES.

◆End of Chapter 77

YOU 2010 Issues No.5 2010


Real Clothes
by Nakimura Saforu
Brought to you by WingtipCafe.com
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槇村さとる
MAKIMURA SATORU

Has it been 37 years since my debut? Since I was born, I've been pretty healthy and suffer no muscle ache so my writing manga career is physically pain free.

However... my ever-present kidney stone suddenly deviated (?) to grow it hurt so badly I had to stay in a hospital.

Ah~~~~~ now I really understand how healthy I've always been. (I will take better care of my body from now on!)
...Oh? Is this Tatsuchi's curse?

YOU
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イラスト：槇村さとる
カバーデザイン／ヒロセ

Real Clothes II
リアル・クローズ
Makimura Satoru
槇村さとる
リアル・クローズ II

槇村さとる・集英社

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Tatsuchi was in a hospital.
Both the store's future and personal problem him down.
Will he find a bright way out--?

Tatsuchi down! He needs to stay in the hospital for a while. His physical health might have improved but a break from work doesn't do his mental health any good...
Meanwhile at Echizenya, Kinue just realizes her love for Tatsuchi is she waiting his return...?!

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リアル・クローズ
Real Clothes 11

Makimura Satoru

リアル・クローズ
Real Clothes 11

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Chapter 78

Real Clothes

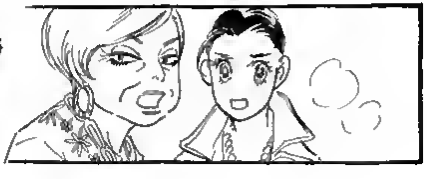
YOU WERE JUST SMILING,
BOSS!
YOU JUST LIT A FIRE IN ALL OF US,
AND NOW—AN AMBULANCE-?!!

WOOO

WEAK BREATHS, LIKE TATSUYA'S FATHER.
A SMALL VOICE...
RUB RUB
BRRRUNG! BRRRUNG!

FOUR
IS...!
IS HE ALIVE?!
HE'S ALIVE!
YES!
IT'S OKA. TABUCHI-SAN HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
AHH!
HE'S BEEN TAKEN BY AN AMBULANCE. THE MATRON OF "SAKURA" IS RIDING WITH HIM
SPLASH
SPLASH
GOT IT.
THANK GOOD-NESS!

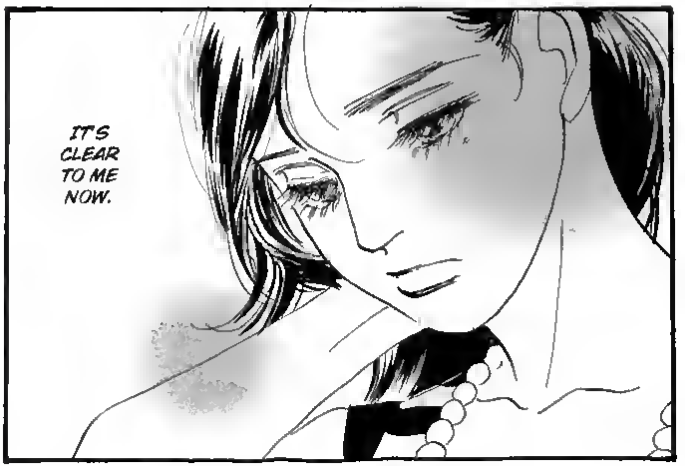
BOSS!!
TAXI—!!
ARKAM



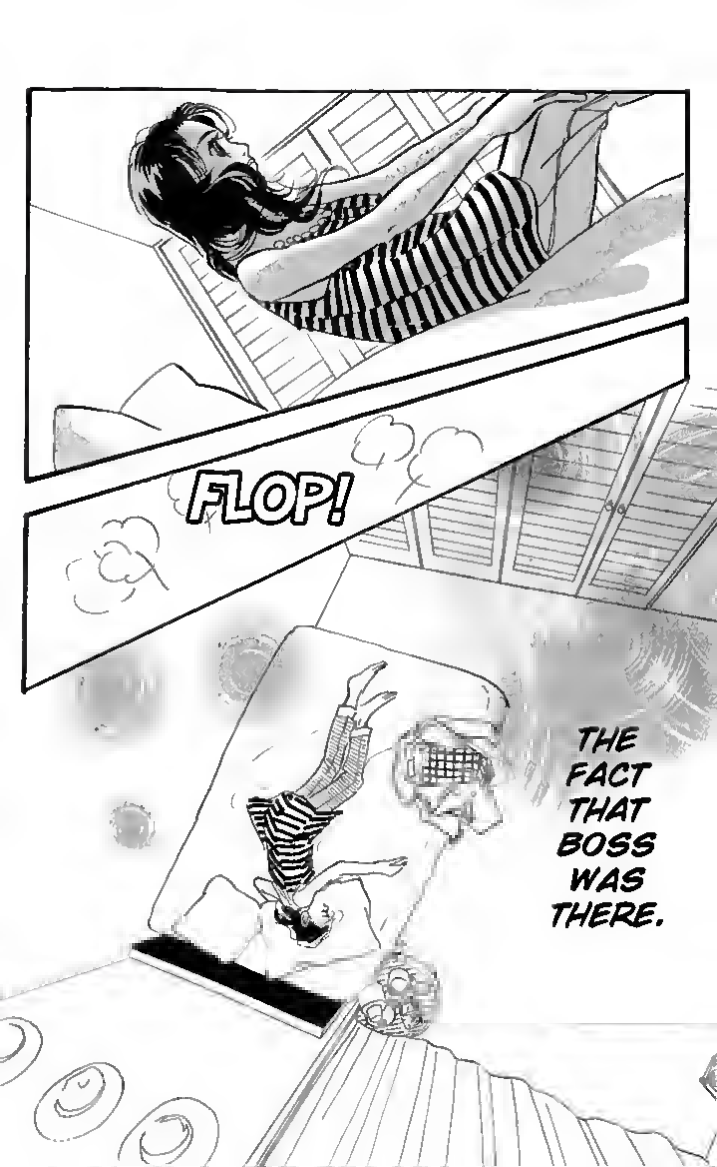
I WORK FOR HIM AT OUR COMPANY...
ARE YOU A FAMILY MEMBER?
PLEASE CONTACT HIS FAMILY...
RIGHT
BOSS.

HE'LL BE OK!
HE WON'T DIE.
UM, IS HE GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?

CLOSE!
TICK
TICK
TICK

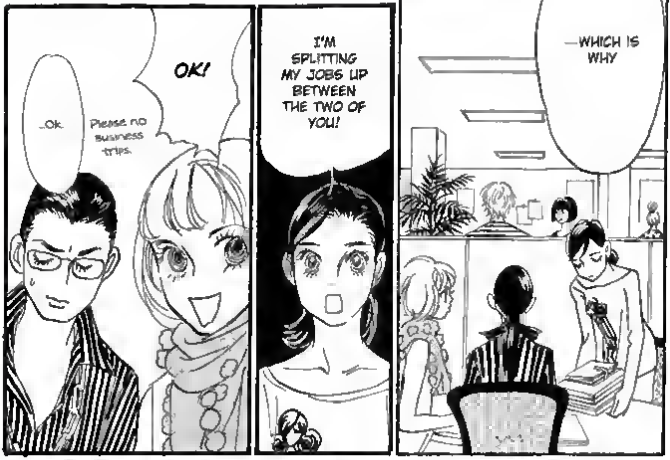

IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW.

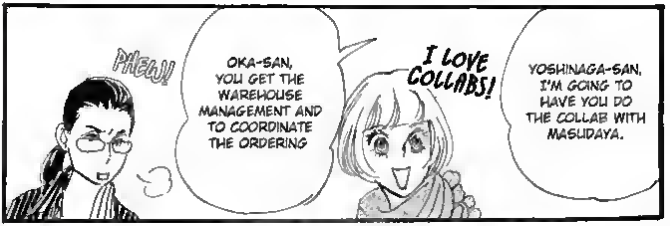
I
LOVE THE BOSS FAR TOO MUCH.
DESPITE SEPARATING FROM TATSUYA, OR LOSING MIKI-SAMA, OR NIKO RESIGNING,
TOSS
WHAT GOT ME THROUGH IT ALL WAS...

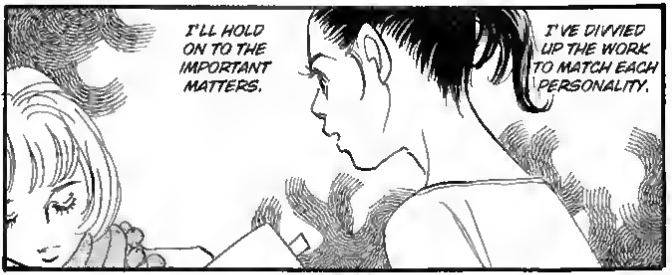

FLOP!
THE FACT THAT BOSS WAS THERE.

IF I WERE TO LOSE HIM
I'D BE EMPTY.

AHHHHH
HIS TREATMENT REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT BED REST, AND THEY'RE NOT SURE HOW LONG UNTIL HE'S RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
TABUCHI-SAN'S CONDITION
SEEMS TO BE DUE TO A LIVER ABSCESS.
SOMEONE SWITCH BODIES WITH HIM!
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?! WITHOUT TABUCHI, THE BUYER ROOM'S GONNA COME TO A FULL-STOP!
Out-rageous!
I'M GOING TO DISTRIBUTE TABUCHI'S JOBS BETWEEN YOU THREE
FOR THE TIME BEING, YONDA, HORI-SAN, AND AMANO-SAN,
COME HERE
TECHIZENYA


OK!
...Ok.
Please no business trips.
I'M SPLITTING MY JOBS UP BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!
—WHICH IS WHY


PHEW!
OKA-SAN, YOU GET THE WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT AND TO COORDINATE THE ORDERING
I LOVE COLLABS!
YOSHINAGA-SAN, I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU DO THE COLLAB WITH MASUDAYA.


I'LL HOLD ON TO THE IMPORTANT MATTERS.
I'VE DIVVIED UP THE WORK TO MATCH EACH PERSONALITY.

OTSUKARE-SAMA—
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
I WILL——
...THEN,
HM——!
I CAN VISIT WITH HIM AND ASK HIM SOME THINGS?
CLATTER!
I'LL GET SOME STRAWBERRIES.

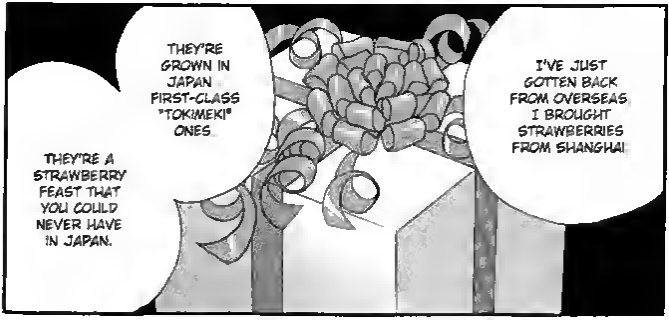
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
KNOCK KNOCK
TABUCHI-SAAAN.
HOW AAARE YOUU?

Barely.
HM?
My back...
WHERE DOES IT HUUUURT?
OH MY.
YOUR URINE BAG IS FULL.
LET'S TRY ADDING A CUSHION THERE.

LET ME TAKE YOUR TEMPER-ATURE, OK~AY?
THAT SHOWS YOU'RE GETTING BETTER—
O~K.
SMI~RK
GASP!
THE VISITING HOURS ARE ALREADY...
OH..
HUH? YOUR TEMPERATURE IS RISING?

THE AVERAGE AGE AT MY WORKPLACE IS YOUNG.
YOU'VE REJUVENATED YOURSELF.
I HAVE NO STRESS.
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY FROM THE CREAKY, POST-WAR GENERATION THERE, EITHER.

HERE... THIS IS A SHAWL THAT MY COMPANY HIGHLY RECOMMENDS FOR THE SUMMER.
PLEASE USE IT.
EXCU~~~SE ME~~
H&H
BUT THE VISITING HOURS ARE ALREADY...
Pretty~

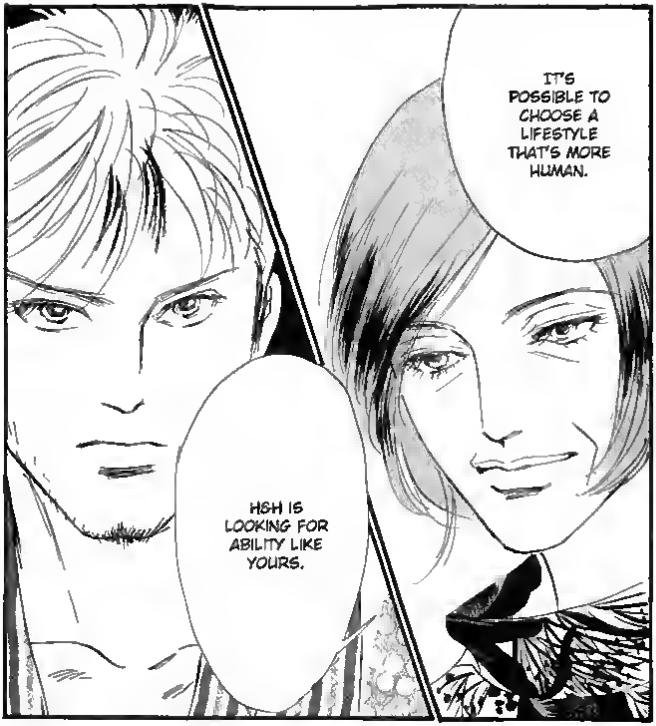

THEY'RE A STRAWBERRY FEAST THAT YOU COULD NEVER HAVE IN JAPAN.
THEY'RE GROWN IN JAPAN FIRST-CLASS "TOKIMEKI" ONES.
I'VE JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM OVERSEAS. I BROUGHT STRAWBERRIES FROM SHANGHAI.

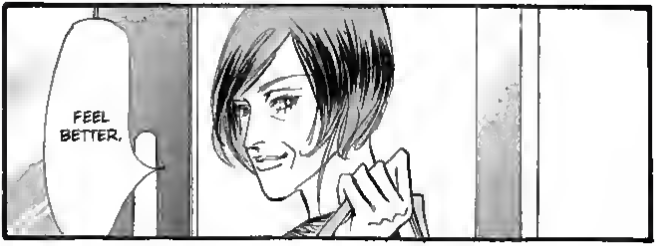
OH, DON'T!
FIRST-CLASS "TOKEMEKI"!!
EVEN LINES OF DISTRIBUTION HAVE CHANGED, HM?
THE #1 JAPANESE STRAWBERRY ISN'T EVEN FROM JAPAN.

I WAS INFORMED BY MADAME LULU IN PARIS THAT "TABUCHI HAD COLLAPSED."
WHO'S THAT? WHO SQUEALED?
WHEN I TEXTED NIKO ABOUT IT, HE REPLIED, "THE BOSS'S FAVORITE IS STRAWBERRIES."
SO HE GOT MARRIED?
KEH.
I'M NOT HIS BOSS ANY MORE.
THE GLOBE HAS BECOME MUCH SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT.
THE SHOWA PERIOD AND THE 20TH CENTURY ARE ALL IN THE PAST. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED.

AND DOESN'T THAT MEAN THE END OF THE LINE FOR DEPARTMENT STORES?
I DO UNDERSTAND THE FEELING OF NOT WANTING TO BELIEVE IT,
BUT I'M SPEAKING REALISTIC-ALLY.
FROM AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE

DEPARTMENT STORES HAVE POTENTIAL.
POTENTIAL... HM?
.....
THIS HOSPITALIZATION MAY BE A GOOD CHANCE TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE
FOR 18 YEARS, YOU'VE BEEN DEVOTED TO THE COMPANY, AND THEN YOU GO DOWN FROM OVERWORK.
HASN'T THE DEPARTMENT STORE BECOME CONSTRICTING ATTIRE, THAT DOESN'T MATCH YOUR SIZE?

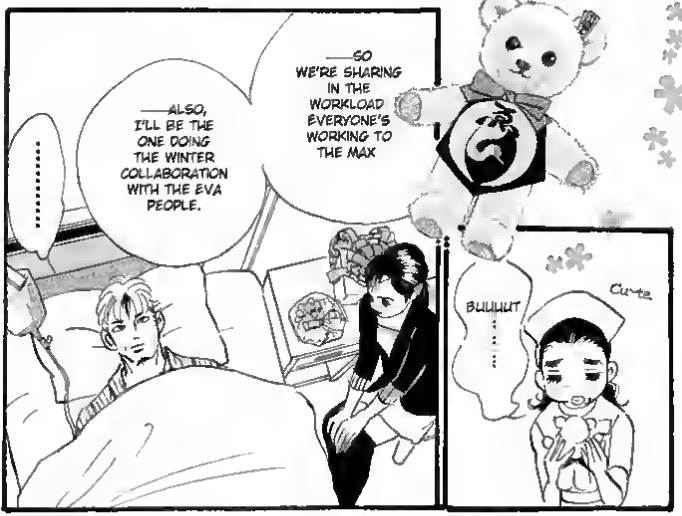

IT'S POSSIBLE TO CHOOSE A LIFESTYLE THAT'S MORE HUMAN.
HSH IS LOOKING FOR ABILITY LIKE YOURS.


FEEL BETTER.

DANGLE...
HUUH?
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
She's definitely had some "work" done.
That was scary.

¥500 WORTH.
I GOT THEM FROM A FRUIT STAND.
STRAWBERRIES!
BOSS!

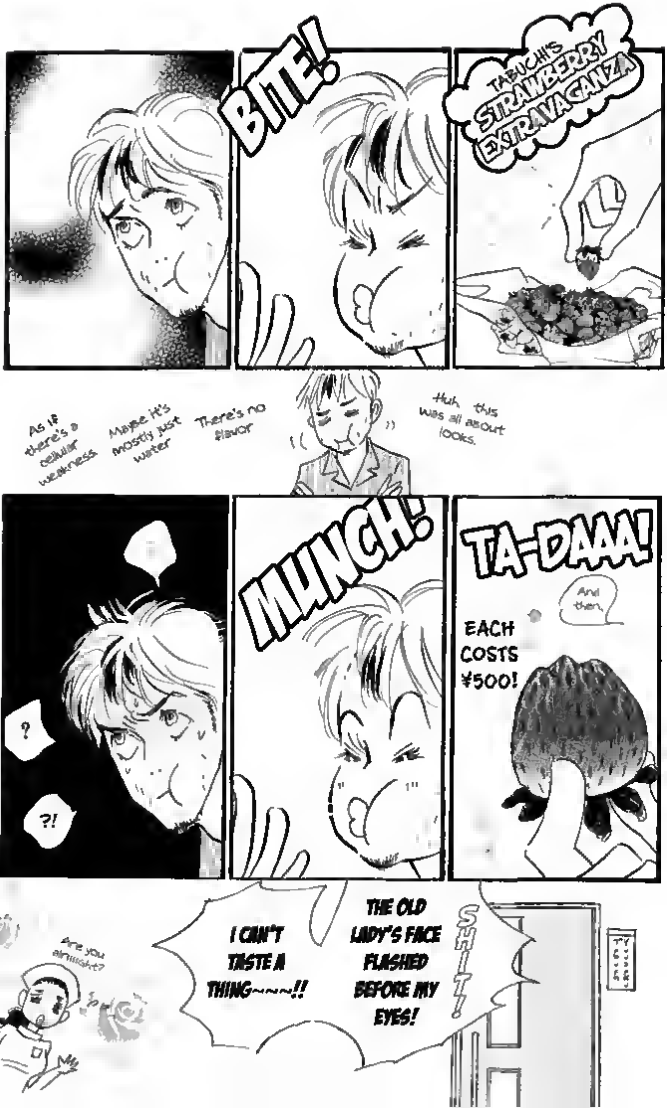
THIS IS FROM OUR COLLABORATION WITH THE SCHÖN COMPANY IN GERMANY... PLEASE KEEP IT!
I'M SORRY, JUST 5 MINUTES!
UM... THE VISITING HOURS ARE ALREADY...


——SO WE'RE SHARING IN THE WORKLOAD EVERYONE'S WORKING TO THE MAX
——ALSO, I'LL BE THE ONE DOING THE WINTER COLLABORATION WITH THE EVA PEOPLE.
.....
BUUUUT.....
Cute

DROP ALL THE JOBS THAT "ALREADY EXIST" AND ASSIGN THEM TO YOUR STAFF. IF YOU DON'T, YOSHINAGA CAN'T DEVELOP.
WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING IS MAKING WHAT "DOESN'T EXIST YET."
AH-
BUT, THIS IS THE MOST CRITICAL. I...
LEAVE ALL THE COLLABS TO YOSHINAGA

SURE.
Aren't you being dishonest?
UM...
This guy is a liability.
IF THAT'S WHAT THE BOSS WANTS,
I WILL TRY.
Boss...

SO ADORABLE
WAIT, WHAT?
BOW!
LOOK OUTSIDE OF THE COMPANY.
SO— UNKEMPT.
WHAT'S THIS? WITHOUT ALL THE FASHION, ISN'T HE JUST SOME NORMAL GUY?


BITE!
TAEUCHI'S STRAWBERRY EXTRAVAGANZA
As if there's a cellular weakness
Maybe it's mostly just water
There's no flavor
Huh, this was all about looks.
MUNCH!
TA-DAAA!
And then...
EACH COSTS ¥500!
?
?!
Chapter 78 End of
I CAN'T TASTE A THING~~~~!!
THE OLD LADY'S FACE FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES!
SHIT!
Are you ermilish?

https://greenblender.com/smoothie/7925/strawberry-smoothies

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